Well it’s the end of 2015 and the beginning of a brand new year. Let’s make it a great one for our lodge. Let’s emphasize our stations, Brotherly Love, Justice, Charity, and Fidelity. Let’s all chip in for the good of the lodge and put aside all personal differences. It’s a brand new calendar year and we should all work together for the common good.

I am nearing the end of my term but I still would like to see a lot accomplished. We are over halfway there on our sprinkler project. We have to work to get the rest of the funding by the time work commences in April. The contracts are signed and we are well on our way. Let’s not lose the momentum. My thanks to Cynthia Noonan for all her creative fundraising ideas.

Many members are working to help us reach our goal. Thank you to all members for your donations and loans.

The Christmas party raised a lot of money too, headed by Yolanda and Davy and assisted by John and Mary Debos and committee. Keep up the good work everyone.

Elections are coming up soon. If you are interested in an office, please contact one of the PERs.

As you know, we have a new Treasurer, Renee Greco, please make her feel welcome.

Let’s celebrate the New Year and strive for a successful 2016.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Meetings
1st & 3rd Tues • 7:30 PM
Initiation
1st Tues. • 7:30 PM

Banquet Rentals
for your next party or special occasion!
Contact Jon Putzke at (772) 559-0556.

Pizzeria Wednesday
STILL ON HOLD
Chef Pete is recovering from a medical condition. So pizzeria night is still on hold, but will return soon.

Ongoing Activities

The Secretary’s Corner

As I’m writing this note, my Santa is loading our sled to fly up North to play Santa Claus to our children and grandchildren. We would however like to take a moment and extend our warmest wishes for a

Happy and Healthy New Year to all
Looking forward to seeing you in 2016
Flo Synenko

We still need your help!
We are getting closer to our goal for the fire sprinkler system we are required to install by the Spring of 2016. But, we aren’t there yet! As of this publishing, we have collected $32,000 so far.

You can contribute anytime by clicking on the links below or visiting our Fundraising Page at: http://veroelks.com/fundraisers/ or stop by the lodge and hand it to one of our officers or bartenders.

HELP US TO OUR GOAL OF
$60,000
Promisory Notes
available at the bar
ALL LEVEL OF DONATIONS ACCEPTED!

WE ARE MORE THAN
HALF WAY THERE!

$60,000
$55,000
$50,000
$45,000
$40,000
$35,000
$30,000
$25,000
$20,000
$15,000
$10,000
$5,000
$1,000

Page 2
Ongoing Activities

**Karaoke**
Every Monday & Wednesday • 7-10 PM

**Bingo**
Every Thursday • 7 PM
Progressive Jackpot
Contact: Leah Facto

**Monday Night Games**
Bridge, Poker, Pool & Shuffle Board
Jack Houlihan • (917) 501-4591
Guy & Ang Bacci • (772) 567-5524

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**Vero Beach Elks Spread Holiday Cheer to Local Children**

The Homeless Family Center located at 4th and Old Dixie received special gifts from our lodge on 12/17/2015.

Vero Beach Elks provides funding for Christmas gifts to all children residing at the HFC.

With this funding, Mary Lou Bottomley shopped till she dropped during Black Friday to get the most of the money for this worthy project - yet another great charitable action on the part of VB Elks.

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**Committees & Chairpersons**

- Accident Prevention ..........Fred Knerr
- Americanism ............Craig Waskow, PER
- Army of Hope .... Jack Houlihan, PDDGER
- Auditing & Accounting ........ Keith Hartley
- Bingo ..........................Leah Facto
- Communications...............TBD
- Community Affairs.........Carol Palowich
- Credentials ............Bob Carroll, PDDGER
- Drug Awareness
- Education ..................Jane Burton
- Elks Memorial Day .. Les Owen, PDDGER
- Elks National Foundation........Bob Carroll, PDDGER
- Elks Natl. Foundation Scholarships .... Brenda Carroll
- Elks Training .......... Les Owen, PDDGER
- Flag Day ..................Craig Waskow, PER
- Government Relations...........Jack Hurd
- Harry-Anna
- Trust Fund ...............Bob Carroll, PDDGER
- Hoop Shoot ...............Christina Ferrari
- House .................. Les Owen, PDDGER
- Inter-Lodge
- Visitation ........ Jack Houlihan, PDDGER
- Membership ..................Flo Synenko
- Orientation ............Bob Carroll, PDDGER
- PER Scholarship ..........June Maher, PER
- Publicity ................ Carol & Joe Palowich
- Ritual ..................... Les Owen, PDDGER
- State Major Projects ... Donna J. Knerr, ER
- Veterans Services ..........Jane Burton
- Youth Activities ..........Dan Danaher

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**We need your help during this busy time of year.**

**Contact House Committee Chair, Les Owen, at the Lodge**

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Our advertisers help make this newsletter possible.

They support us...

Please remember to support them!
Elk of the Month

Elk of the Month for December is Yolanda Sullivan
Together with her partner, Davy Cappelen, she put on a wonderful Christmas party for everyone to enjoy. She was assisted by John and Mary Debos and a small army of volunteers. Everything was great. The decorations unique, the food was tasty (and free) and the band was entertaining.

Yolanda spends a lot of time at the Lodge as she is one of our bartenders but she is also an Elk. She organized Rosie’s Memorial and goes beyond the duties of bartender. When we have a night without an event, she and Craig and her helpers do Taco Nights and she helps organize other various events around the lodge.

PER Association

The next PER’s meeting will be on Jan. 6, 2016 at 4:30PM.
The nominations and elections of officers for the 2016/17 fiscal year are coming very soon. If any member is interested in getting more information about the duties of a position and how important the position is to the Lodge, please feel comfortable in contacting any of the Lodge’s PERs, either by phone, email or in person. They are: Bob Carroll, Jack Houlihan, June Maher, Dennis Ryan, Bob Barrett, Paul Diaz, Craig Waskow, Les Owen, Jimmy Meade, and Bill Gavin.

Thank you for your continued support!

Excerpt from
An Authentic History of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks by Charles Edward Ellis
The Elk colors are Royal Purple and White, a combination deriving its origin from the history of the Clergy, Nobility and the People. Throughout Europe, the Orient and in Rome, the symbolism of colors was associated with severity of laws and customs. Each color in each pattern was identified religious or political, and to change or alter it was a crime of rebellion -- a desertion of principles, party or cause.

White denotes purity and absolute truth. When combined with Royal Purple it signifies the love of truth and the highest degree of virtue. Purple is the badge of Kingship, the color for the robes of Emperors and High Priests, and signifies highest favor. Blending of White and Royal Purple indicates the favor of the people, which bespeaks the status of Elkdom.
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## Around the Lodge

by Donna Knerr, ER

What a busy Holiday Season. The Christmas Party was a huge success thanks to Yolanda, Davy, John and Mary Debos and the whole kitchen and serving crew.

Kandy Houlihan shopped and her committee wrapped dozens of gifts for the Wabasso School. A party was held on the 18th and a Santa Claus was present to distribute gifts. There were a number of Elks in attendance to watch the festivities.

The same week Mary Lou Bottomley and her crew wrapped and presented gifts to the Homeless Center. Mary Lou was up at six in the morning on Black Friday to get the most for her money.

Steak dinners by Al Klager continued, as did a Burger Night by Yo and Craig. Our yearly Memorial was conducted by the PERs. Over forty of our members went on a cruise.

Charlie Wilson held another successful Dueling Pianos, which also partially benefited the lodge.

We are still having music on weekend nights when we don’t have dinners. They are becoming quite popular. As of this writing, it looks like New Year’s Eve will be a big success also. Of course, Karoke and Bingo continue, as does Sunday football.

We have several members enduring chemotherapy, please keep them in your prayers.

There are many exciting events coming up. Read your emails and Elk’s Tale to keep up on everything. And, please remember to take pictures of our events for Cynthia, our editor, and Jim, our webmaster.

### Purpose of the Elks

Reproduced from Elks USA website

It is beneficial to periodically remind ourselves why our organization was formed and what our true purpose is. This information can be found published at http://www.elks.org/who/information.cfm. Please take a moment and reflect on why you became a member.

This Fraternal Order was founded “To promote and practice the four cardinal virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American Patriotism and cultivate good fellowship.”

#### Fidelity

“faithfulness to a person, cause, or belief, demonstrated by continuing loyalty and support”
• Protecting Your Portfolio Even If The Market Crashes
• IRA/401k Distribution Planning
• Guaranteed Retirement Income
• Retirement Tax Strategies
• 1 Year Short Term Investment Earning 5%
• No Fees – No Kidding

“Helping Retirees for Over 17 Years”

Al Klager, President
Vero Beach Elks Lodge Member & Trustee

1515 Indian River Blvd., Suite A245
Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 778-5544 • www.askatlantic.com
Welcome New Members

Membership in our Order is a privilege that we learn to value highly as we develop in Elkdom. As Elks, we enjoy everything that we stand for and wish to share it with friends and family. Thus, we proudly and warmly welcome those friends and family members who have just joined our wonderful Order.

November - 17 New Members
(In alphabetical order)
Terri Amy, Mary Brown, Dominick Concilio, Jr.,
Donald Guidry, Karen Guidry, Amalie Hennech,
Kathy Hill, DeAnna Hines, Steven W. Kayser,
MaryAnn Lyle, Pauline Moldenhauer, Morgan Parker,
Gary Schlitt, Liz Sherman, Kimberley Smith,
Dawn Thomas, Timothy Zorc

December - 14 New Members
(In alphabetical order)
James Backstahler, Francis (Rick) Brooks,
Bruce Campbell, Robert Deniger, Joyce Kelly,
James Maguire, Paul Moore, Arthur Rhodes,
Julia Short, Gary Thiemann, Merlin Vanee,
Terry Williamson, Corey M. Wilson, Mary L. Zarcone

Cookies for Soldiers

What tastier way is there to say thank you to our deployed service men and women than to send them cookies?

Won’t you help us by cooking up a batch on the behalf of our lodge?

Rose Tufano heads up the Vero Beach Elks Lodge’s Cookies for Soldiers program. You can find her at the lodge every third Thursday at 9 am collecting your donations and packing everything up for mailing. Feel free to stop by and see how you can help.

If donating, please be sure to drop off your contributions before the third Thursday of every month and let’s show our soldiers how much we appreciate their service!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!
Charity Update by Craig Waskow, PER

We are a benevolent organization and always respond to local causes. This brief synopsis will attempt to update our current donations.

“Toys For Tots” contributions were tremendous and appeared to be (again) one of the largest donors to the program.

Food contributions, sponsored by our Bartenders, gathered 20 sizable boxes of food that were distributed to Veterans homes and to our local Veterans’ Food Pantry.

The Lodge again donated money for Christmas gifts for children at the “Homeless Family Center,” managed by Mary Lou Bottomley and her team. They presented 52 gifts and cookies to a very appreciating group of children.

Kandy and Jack Houlihan headed up the very special program that presented 48 gifts and happiness to students at the “Wabasso School.” An emotional event put all into the Christmas giving spirit.

Lastly, to ourselves, for contributing to our internal drive for “house” repairs, something that all will benefit.

Thanks to all for your thoughtfulness and sharing.

Merry Time at the Lodge

Thanks to the hard work and generosity of the bartenders and their team of volunteers, the members enjoyed a free Christmas Party held on December 15th at the lodge.

Merry smiles and good cheer were overflowing as more than 150 attendees enjoyed a delicious seafood medley for dinner.

There was plenty of music in the air provided by one of our lodge favorites, The Groovin’ Groundhogs, which had the dance floor full of celebrating holiday revelers.

Lots of libation, food, music and laughter! The Members’ Christmas Party always proves to be a wonderful way to draw the year to an end by sharing the holiday spirit with our fellow Elks.

If you missed it this year, be sure to mark your calendar for next years’ event. You won’t be disappointed!

Many, many thanks to Yo, Davy, John, and Mary for your tireless efforts to make this terrific evening possible.
MEMORIAL GARDEN BRICK FUNDRAISER

Vero Beach Elks Lodge is pleased to offer this special commemorative Memorial Garden Fundraising Program to our membership. The garden is located in the front area of the building and will feature engraved commemorative brick pavers to be enjoyed for future generations to come. These pavers are the perfect way to honor individuals, friends, pets, groups, clubs and businesses.

Hurry! Limited number of bricks available!

- Create a permanent signature at the lodge for yourself, your children, or grandchildren
- Promote your business while showing your support for your lodge
- Memorialize a lost loved one
- Honor a soldier or service-person with a patriotic thank you

Brick pavers measure 4” x 8” and allow for up to 3 lines of personalization.

There are two options available:
- Text Only - $50.00 per Brick
- Text plus Logo - $75.00 per Brick

ADVANCE PAYMENT REQUIRED

Complete the order form below and drop it at the lodge or mail to:
Vero Beach Elks Lodge #1774 1350 26th St., Vero Beach, FL 32960

MEMORIAL GARDEN BRICK ORDER FORM

Donor Name: ____________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________
City, State, Zip: _________________________________________
Phone: _____________ Email: ______________________________

Please fill in the name of person you wish to have on your brick. You have the option of using 1 to 3 lines (14 characters max per line) on your brick. Each line used reduces the print size. PRINT EXACTLY the way you wish your brick to read. If you print in uppercase or lowercase, this is how it will be inscribed. You may also use numbers in the inscription. Spacing in between words is considered a character. Punctuation does require a space. ALL TEXT WILL BE CENTERED.

Line 1: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
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Line 3: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Each Brick cost is $50.00
Optional Logo is add’l $25.00 = $75.00

Choose Optional Logo, if desired:
☐ Elk Head ☐ Angel ☐ Paw Print ☐ Entwining Rings & Heart

Please indicate method of payment - Advance payment required
☐ Cash ☐ Check

Checks payable to Vero Beach Elks Lodge #1774

Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex
Card Number: ________________________________
Expiration: _____________ CVV/CVS: _____________
Name on Card: ________________________________
Billing Address: ______________________________
Billing Zip: ________________________________
Annual Christmas Party for Wabasso School

For the 8th year in a row, Vero Beach Elks Lodge delivered Christmas cheer to the handicapped children at Wabasso School. Thanks to the generosity of our members, we were able to purchase gifts for 48 students at the school for special needs students.

Assisted by jolly ole Santa himself, our lodge was represented by ER Donna Knerr, Jack and Kandy Houlihan, Flo Synenko, Lew Owen, Craig Waskow, Eunice Golia, Joe Bruzzi, Jack and Fran Sullivan, John Sullivan III, and Rose Tufano. Shown through the smiles of the children from ear to ear, the celebration was a huge success and enjoyed by all.

Thank you everyone for opening your hearts and sharing your time and treasure to make this worthwhile event happen.

Shine Brilliantly in 2016!

John Michael Matthews
FINE JEWELRY

ANTWERP DIAMONDS • COLORED GEMSTONES • ESTATE JEWELRY

645 BEACHLAND BOULEVARD VERO BEACH, FL 32963
772.234.1512 WWW.JOHNMATTHEWSJEWELRY.COM

In Loving Memory of Caroline Gavin
Elk of the Year 2002

Bill
Governor’s Veteran’s Service Award

On March 13, 2014 Florida’s Governor Rick Scott, by Executive Order 14-88, created the “Governor’s Veterans Service Award” to honor America’s military veterans, including Florida’s more than 1.5 million living veterans, through whose selfless service and sacrifice we enjoy freedom and liberty. The award may be presented to any legal resident of this state who either:

A. Is serving honorably as a member of the United States Armed Forces, the United States Coast Guard, the Florida National Guard, OR the United States Reserve Forces; OR
B. Has been honorably discharged or retired from active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces, the United States Coast Guard, the Florida National Guard, the United States Reserve Forces, or Merchant Mariners with veteran status.

To apply to receive this award, you must complete an application. Proof of veteran status is required via:

- DD214
- VA ID Card
- Florida Driver’s License with “V” Designation
- Veterans’ Service Organization Membership Card
- Retired Veteran ID Card

For Additional Information, Contact:
Leonard J. Smallacombe, PDD, State Coordinator
FSEA “Presidential Memorial Certificate Program”
Email: lenbar85@aol.com
Phone: 772/871-2255

To Download Application and Additional Information:
Visit: http://floridavets.org/gvsa/

Note: Veterans need not have served in a combat zone to be eligible.

Vero Beach Elks Thursday Night

BINGO

All proceeds benefit Elk’s Charities.

Contact Leah Facto for more info

Come join us Thursday nights for bingo in the lounge!

Sales start at 6:15 and game starts at 6:45 with an early bird special.

Every member who brings a guest receives a free coverall sheet for each guest signed in.

Come join in the fun – definitely not your grandmother’s bingo!

Florida Elks Online Encyclopedia

The Florida Elks Online Encyclopedia now has Google-like search capability!

Type a word or topic in the search box and all entries that refer to it will be pulled up for you to read. This is useful for anyone wanting to know more about an Elk topic and is especially helpful to bulletin editors, officers, District Vice Presidents, and District Deputies.

Find it at: http://floridaelks.org/encyclopedia-of-elkdom
With the holidays but a memory we march into the New Year. We hope you all were able to partake in the many Lodge events. The bar activity continues afternoons and evenings – a festive place to be. The $100 a day drawing was fun for many and a successful effort. The ‘Bar Bell’ rang a few times in December. The ‘star’ tree was creative and also proved successful.

Football Sundays will become more intense as the games heat up in the next few weeks. Super Bowl is around the corner. Beer specials during the games continue. Happy Hour on Saturday is always fun – stop on by for a bargain. Check out Karaoke on Monday and Wednesday – it can be interesting.

Friday dinners and entertainment is filling the Lounge – Steaks are great (many compliments) with a cold beer or glass of wine. Bar Bingo is building on Thursday. If you don’t have a group, sit at the bar and enjoy the games. The Jackpot went, however, it will build again.

Truth or Myth – In age old Scotland, golfers carried a bottle of scotch. On each of the 18 tees, a player took a ‘nip’. At the end of the round they took the remainder of whiskey to an inside location to finish. Thus the term, ‘The Nineteenth Hole’. Now we know……

See you all soon and have a great New Year!

Lucky Pot O’ Gold
Fundraiser for Sponsorship of the “7th Annual Indian River County St. Patrick’s Day Parade”

THREE PRIZES!
1st Prize $1,000
2nd Prize $500
3rd Prize $250

DRAWING DURING POST PARADE PARTY
ON MARCH 19, 2016 - 5:30 PM

TICKETS $10
AVAILABLE AT THE BAR
WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

Proceeds benefit the “7th Annual Indian River County St. Patrick’s Day Parade” and the Vero Beach Elks Lodge Sprinklers Fund

Thank You Yo and Davy for throwing such a wonderful Christmas Party!

We are a lucky lodge to have you both.

January 2016
Was your departed loved one a Veteran?

Vero Beach Lodge #1774 wants you to know that, if your loved one served in the US Military, you can order an engraved paper Presidential Memorial Certificate in his/her honor. It is FREE and we provide you the information needed to request these certificates.

Please contact Flo Synenko, our Lodge Secretary, at (772) 569-1774 for more information. You can also obtain additional information under “Our Military & Veterans” at the Florida State Elks Association (FSEA) website: http://www.flelks.org.

Recognizes Devotion and Duty to Our Nation

This program was initiated in March 1962 by President John F. Kennedy, and is administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Eligible recipients include the deceased veteran’s next of kin and loved ones. You may apply in person at any VA regional office or by toll free fax or U. S. mail only. Requests cannot be sent via email.

You will need:

• A copy of the veteran’s Honorable Discharge
• A copy of the veteran’s death certificate
• Completely filled out PMC application [pdf]

Certificates will take approximately 8-10 weeks to arrive.

From the Editor’s Desk

by Cynthia Noonan

Ah, yes... New Year’s. That joyous time of year when you once again must take personal inventory and commit to making positive changes that are sure to improve your blood pressure, increase your bank account, lower your weight, or, if you’re really ambitious, all three!

If you haven’t slowed down long enough yet from all the holiday hustle and bustle to develop your New Year’s Resolution list for 2016, I’ll try to get you started here with my top 10 list for this year:

1. Get dressed before noon, or at least before my first video conferencing call. Sound easy to you? Trust me, there’s a reason why this one is first on my list!
2. Try and drive at or under the speed limit ... at least when I’m not hungry, tired or late.
3. Keep my opinions to myself (yeah, right, there’s a resolution waiting to be forgotten if I’ve ever heard one).
4. Don’t go out of the house without makeup on. You never know who you will run into at the Quik Mart!
5. Stop repeating myself again, and again, and again.
6. Don’t go out of the house without makeup on ... grrrr ... guess I need more work on #5.
7. Stop procrastinating ... (I might have to start this one next month, looks like I have a lot on my plate).
8. Gain some weight - I believe I caught a glimpse of one of my ribs in the mirror yesterday, at least I think that’s what it was. I can’t be absolutely positive since it’s been a while since I’ve seen them.
9. Read those books I bought 5 years ago on “how to improve my memory” ... I just keep forgetting I have them.
10. Be more decisive ... I’ll absolutely try to attempt to think about resolving to be more decisive, that is if I possibly can.

Well, there you go. As you can see, I’ve got some work cut out for me this year.

So, if you see me in the store without any makeup on or zooming down Route 60 at 55 mph, please just patiently nod and smile, and know that I am doing the best I can. It’s going to be a very long year and I have a long list ahead of me.

Happy New Year Everyone!
Vero Beach Elks Lodge #1774

7th Annual Indian River County St. Patrick's Day Parade Fundraising Kick-Off

**DINNER / DANCE**
Saturday, January 23rd, 2016

*Cocktails: 5:30 PM*
*Dinner 6:30 PM*

Entertainment for Your Listening & Dancing Pleasure
by "Fire in the Kitchen"
Featuring Bobby O'Donovan, County Cork & Bob Noble

**MENU:**
Shrimp Cocktail Appetizer
Irish Loin of Pork with Jameson Whiskey Sauce

$20/Person
Limited Seating
Reserved Tables with Purchase of Eight Tickets
(Seating Chart Available)

**NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR**
Keep your eyes out for emails throughout the month with updated dinners and special events!

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<td>Sunday Football Bring a Dish</td>
<td>Karaoke 7-10 pm Monday Night Games</td>
<td>Member Meeting &amp; Initiation 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Karaoke 7-10 pm</td>
<td>Wings/Fries/Burgers/Dogs 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Steak or Fish Dinner Dance 6:30 pm Entertainment by Johnny Nick</td>
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<td>Cookies for Soldiers 9 am</td>
<td>Irish Parade Fundraiser Dinner Dance Music by Fire in the Kitchen</td>
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Upcoming Events

Come out and support your lodge. Mark your calendar and don’t miss out on these planned events!

Advance reservations RECOMMENDED for all dinner events. Some events have limited seating available and may require advance ticket purchases.

- **Valentine’s Day Dinner Dance**
  - Feb 13th
- **Irish Parade Fundraiser Dinner Dance**
  - Feb 19th

Check www.VeroElks.com for more information on Upcoming Events