



ELKORAMA

Volume 210, Issue 196

Brainerd Elks Lodge #615

March, 2014

Exalted Ruler's Corner: March

Well, I am writing this on February 6th and spring does not appear to be in the air. I do know that the committee is working hard on the Fishing Fling and the date should be set by the time you read this.

You will start seeing some improvements in the Club. The Trustees have been working hard and I think the plans look very +good and I am anxious to see the final result. We will benefit from an update and you will have to invite a friend to come and see our Club. Offer them a drink or a meal on Tuesday or Thursday. If you do bring someone in, give them one of the tri-fold brochures on the tables that tell them who the Brainerd Lodge is and the many things we do for the community. Also, and very importantly, if you have a friend or colleague that was a member before, remind them (with a brochure maybe) why they were an Elk and invite them back.



Why am I a little repetitive about looking for members? Well, part of the reason is 71. On the surface an unremarkable number but given the correct context it can have significant meaning. 71 is the average age of the current membership of Brainerd Lodge #615. While the energy and commitment of our members is not in doubt, we cannot continue our admirable goals and projects without new members to complement the existing Lodge. I will continue to encourage people to invite someone in. I will again ask that you look at the tri-fold brochures that Jim Van Duyn created and remind yourself what we do so you can encourage a friend to be part of our great Order.

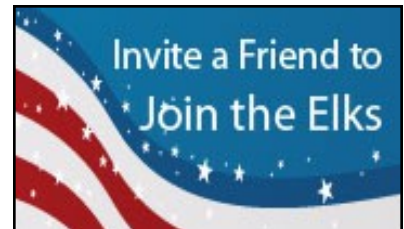
I hope when you read this we are seeing a hint of spring but for now stay warm. Pretty ironic that I am writing this on the eve of a ski trip to Aspen and I expect the weather to be warmer there than at home sweet home. Ah, the joys of living in Minnesota.

- Fraternaly submitted, Jim Dehen -

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

All members should have received their 2014-2015 dues statement by now. If that has not happened, please let Secretary Don Stang know as soon as possible. I ask that all members pay their dues as soon as possible. I ask all members to continue their support of Penny A Day and the Elks National Foundation. The Penny A Day program is Minnesota's Major State Project which supports the Minnesota Elks Youth Camp located on Pelican Lake.

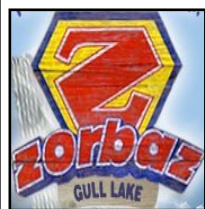
The Elks National Foundation is a branch of the Elks Grand Lodge. All monies donated are held in trust and only the earnings are used to support youth scholarships, youth programs, veteran programs, grants for local programs and a wide variety of state sponsored programs. The Brainerd Elks has received \$8000.00 this 2013-2014 membership year in local grants from Elks National Foundation. The Brainerd Elks has only donated about \$1500.00. Thank you for continued support.



NEW MEMBER



Welcome New Member Earl (Kathy) Wolleat. He is welcomed into Lodge by relative Tom Borden, PER whom he hasn't seen since childhood days. Earl lives near the Youth Camp and wishes to be involved with happenings at the camp.



Pull-Tab Location
Brainerd Elks
Lic. # 00496

Cowboy's
Lake Shore, Mn

Pull-Tabs Brainerd Elks Lic. #00496

Students of the Month

Angela Christine Cole, Pequot Lakes High School, is one of the Brainerd Elks Lodge Students of the Month for March.

Angela is an exceptional young woman dedicated to studies, involved in service to her school and community and in pursuit of making this world a better place. Counselor Anastasia Braam said she is passionate about helping and mentoring others through her activities as a member of Interact Club, speech team, Relay for Life, Kids Against Hunger, Salvation Army bell ringing and the annual Halloween Carnival at the Elementary School. Angela has earned the Minnesota Motivating and Inspiring Leadership and Excellence (MILE) award. Her goal is to become a math professor and does peer tutoring for math. Her extracurricular activities include band, speech team, softball, student council, National Honor Society and others. She has been awarded many honors—A Honor Roll, EXCEL Nominee and more plus serving as Class secretary, Treasurer for Student Council, band section leader and Solo Contest winner. Not only does she excel in school but has been self-employed for six years as a lawn care provider, attends church and enjoys gardening, cooking, baking, knitting, fishing and volunteering. Angela is passionate and respectful and “Possesses the strength of character to make a positive difference in the lives of others.”

Skylar Jaymes Gilbertson, Brainerd Area Education Center, is one of the Brainerd Elks Lodge Students of the Month for March.

Skylar has a desire to graduate with his class indicates Laurel Reese, Counselor. He is a member of the school “STARS” leadership group and intends to become a physical therapist. His extracurricular school activity is Spanish. He works as a “Sandwich Artist” and enjoys leisure time activities with family and friends, playing guitar and watching old movies.

Thank You

- ♦ (Note) Several Third Grade classes from schools that received Dictionaries have sent thank you notes. There are too many to print here but the consensus of the TY’s was that they were proud to receive and many of them highlighted their favorite part. Many chose sign language, the solar system and the longest word. If you stop at the Lodge the TY’s can be found in a notebook at the bar.)
- ♦ Dear Elks, I’m honored to have been chosen as the 2nd place winner of the essay (Americanism) contest. Thank you for the \$75 check. I have put it in my bank account to help save for college. Sincerely, Molly Wells
- ♦ Dear Friends, Thank you for supporting Good Samaritan Bowl XI. Money raised this year is designated for a medical stretch van which enables us to transport residents on stretchers to-and-from the hospital, medical appointments, etc. This is a huge “Plus for our residents and families. It is our honor and privilege to care for those who helped build this community, many of whom are vets. Please consider coming over and visiting the Bethany Campus, where the coffee pot is always on! Blessings, Liz Csanda Community Relations Director (and proud Elk!)
- ♦ Dear Elks—Thank you for sending me to Hutchinson. I had a lot of fun in the Hoop Shoot. Sincerely, Tyler Jordan.
- ♦ Dear Brainerd Auxiliary, I just wanted to say thank you for the opportunity to be in your contest. This is a very important subject (Americanism essay contest “What Veterans Day Means to Me) in my life. It is a great honor for me to win your contest. And thank you for the check of \$100. Thanks again, Anna Chapp.

Thank you VOLUNTEERS, your contributions do not go unnoticed.

- ♦ Thank you to the community breakfast workers that included Kelly Mogensen, Leona Johnson, Karel House, Carol Brown Smith, Cheri Drake, Jim Runberg, Cheryl Bailey, Tom Borden, Bill Bailey, Herman Wisneski, Dan Graven, Joe Masanz and Dave Smith.
- ♦ Special thanks to the Tuesday and Veteran dinners staff of Carol Brown Smith, Kathy Ludenia, Lois Steinbauer, Kala Henkenseifken, Cheryl Bailey, Cheri Drake, Bill Bailey, Jim Van Duyn and Kelly Annabelle; Jay Johnson, Bruce Mogensen, Leona Johnson, Kelly Mogensen, Nedra Van Duyn, Bill Bongs, Shannon Dehen, Ron Stolski, Mark & Donna Wheeler, Karel House--
- ♦ Cheers to the Burger nights’ crews of Herman Wisneski, Cheryl Bailey, Cheri Drake, Jim Zaleski, Bruce and Kelly Mogensen, Scott Longanecker--
- ♦ Chef Dave Smith, Carol Brown Smith and Cheri Drake for all the hors d oeuvres and desserts at the Super Bowl Party.
- ♦ Thank you Tom Swanson for taking charge of the Lutefisk Dinner. Also to volunteering were Bill & Kathy Ludenia, Karel House, Teri Kautz, Chuck Steinbauer and Cheri Drake.
- ♦ Thank you Polish feed hosts of Mike Jeppesen, Mark Wheeler, Herman Wisneski and Wayne Gutzman.

Brainerd Elks Lodge #615

Elks Central District Hoop Shoot Winners Emerge

Six youth from the Minnesota Elks Central District advance to state competition in the annual Minnesota Elks Hoop Shoot, a free throw shooting contest, held recently at Lake Region Christian School in Baxter.

Wadena Lodge and Alexandria Lodge each had two individual winners. They were 9 year old Gabrielle Hartley from Verndale and Ellie Dague, 11 year old, from Henning. Gabrielle led all girl scorers making 18 of 25 shots. Annie Bowser, Alexandria, prevailed in the 12-13 year old girls division by outshooting Anna Cihak, Detroit Lakes representing Fergus Falls Lodge, in a best of five shoot off. They were tied with 17 each. Annie made all five free throws to advance.

Alexandria's Isaac Maddock from Osakis claimed the 8-9 year old division and led all free throw shooters making 23 of 25 shots. Tyler Jordan, Brainerd, captured the 10-11 year old division tallying 17 of 25. Russell Corrigan swished 22 of 25 free throws to lead the 12-13 year old boys. He represented Hutchinson's entry.

The state event will be held in Hutchinson, MN on February 8. Winners from four state district events, a total of 24 free throw shooters will descend on Park Elementary School at 1:00 pm. First place winners in each of six divisions will be vying for an opportunity to participate in the Regional competition in Iowa City. Alexandria Lodge 1685, Fergus Falls 1093, Hutchinson 2427, Wadena 2386, Willmar 952 and Brainerd compose the central district.

Brainerd Elks Lodge 615 was host to the competition. Lane Schlecht of Hutchinson Lodge 2427 is the Central District Hoop Shoot Chairman.

Brainerd High School varsity Boys basketball team members volunteered to rebound. They were Jake Toft, Grant Reuer, Cristian Einarson, Quinn McElfresh and Juquon Cogshell. Other volunteers included Tom & Dottie Plehal from Hopkins Lodge 2221, Tony Maiers & Lane Schlecht of Hutchinson Lodge 2427 Central District chairman and Brainerd Elks volunteers Jim & Paula Traylor, Mark Wheeler, Bill Bailey, Charles Steinbauer, Dale Swenson, Jim & Nedra Van Duyn and Herman Wisneski, Past State President local coordinator.

8-9 YEAR OLD GIRLS

1st place Gabrielle Hartley Verndale/Wadena 18/25
2nd place Maci Martini Pequot Lakes/Brainerd 14/25

8-9 YEAR OLD BOYS

1st place Isaac Maddock Osakis/Alexandria 23/25
2nd place Carson Rogstad Detroit Lakes/Fergus Falls 17/25

10-11 YEAR OLD GIRLS

1st place Ellie Dague Henning/Wadena 17/25
2nd place Lexi McElfresh Baxter/Brainerd 9/25

10-11 YEAR OLD BOYS

1st place Tyler Jordan Baxter/Brainerd 13/25
2nd place Isaiah Godfrey Alexandria 11/25

12-13 YEAR OLD GIRLS

1st place Annie Bowser Alexandria 17/25, 5/5
2nd place Anna Cihak Detroit Lakes/Fergus Falls 17/25, 3/5

12-13 YEAR OLD BOYS

1st place Russell Corrigan Hutchinson 22/25
2nd place Garrett Kugler Lake Park/Fergus Falls 20/25



Minnesota State Elks Americanism Essay Contest

Veterans Day Written By: Anna Chapp 7th Grade Social Pequot Lakes

Veterans Day is a very important day to America because we honor those who are fighting or have fought for our freedom. We think of those who have served and lost their lives fighting for our country. We are very grateful to them.

Veterans Day to me, means thanking those who are in or have been in the Armed Forces and served for our country. I believe we should thank them whenever possible because they have sacrificed so much for what they believe in and have fought for the freedom of all Americans. November 11 will forever be in our hearts because we should always remember those who have been paralyzed, wounded or killed in battle. We think of those who have lost a parent, husband, wife, grandparent, or child and our hearts go out to them. All the veterans from the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force are very important to America.

Every day is a day to give thanks to all veterans, but November 11 is a day dedicated just to them. This day is very special to me because I have had five family members in the service, four in the Army and one in the Navy. One of them fought in World War II with Japan, endured severe brutality and starvation, survived the Bataan Death March and was held captive as a POW for almost four years. I am truly grateful to my five uncles and all other veterans who have served for our freedom.

Minnesota State Elks Americanism Essay Contest 2013-2014

“What Does Veterans Day Mean To Me?”

Again this year, this patriotic contest gives school children in grades 5-8 the opportunity to express views on their pride in America.

The number of essays submitted this year from Division I (5th & 6th grade) and Division II (7th & 8th grade) with eight schools participating totaled 288. Lodge Americanism Essay Contest coordinator Susan Shortridge indicated the top three essays in each Division were forwarded to the District Level. Winners at the District Level will proceed to the State Level.

The Brainerd Elks Lodge No. 615 awarded the following students for their accomplishment at the Local Level.

Division I

First Place: Nick Porisch, Forestview Middle School, 6th grade
 Second Place: Molly Wells, Forestview Middle School, 6th grade
 Third Place: Shaylee Stroot, St Francis Catholic School, 6th grade

Division II

First Place: Anna Chapp, Pequot Lakes Middle School, 7th grade
 Second Place: Joseph Hendrickson, Crosslake Community School, 8th grade
 Third Place: Laura Wadsten, Forestview Middle School, 8th grade

First place winners received a check for \$100; 2nd place winners received a check for \$75; and 3rd place winners received a check for \$50.

Congratulations to our Local winners and Good Luck at the District & State Levels!!!



**Nick Porisch and
Molly Wells**

Shalee Stroot

Anna Chapp

**Joseph
Hendrickson**

Laura Wadsten

Saying Thank You Written By: Nick Porisch Forestview Middle School, Grade 6

Veterans Day should be important to everyone, not just me, a son of a veteran, and not just other people who know veterans, because Veterans Day is about saying thank you. On this day we honor all the men and women who joined the Armed Forces and have risked everything, including their lives, for our freedom. Many of them have even lost everything for our liberty.

Veterans Day reminds me of the main things veterans fight for; freedom, justice, and liberty.

My dad, a current soldier in the National Guard, left for Iraq a week after my sister was born and we didn't see him for two years. As a tribute to all veterans, my class recites the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. This says that we pledge ourselves to the United States and the flag. That's what soldiers are doing when they join the Armed Forces, but they extend that pledge from an oath of allegiance to an oath of security, that they will risk their all to keep America safe. Veterans Day is not so much a holiday as much as an idea. An idea to give back to the veterans who have sworn that oath that they will keep the United States safe and free and risked their all for us.

Veterans Day means many things to me, but above all it means the idea of giving back to our veterans. Veterans Day is important to me and a reminder to everyone to just say thanks to those who have served. Next time you meet a veteran, just say, "Thank you."

A Salute to All Who Have Served Written By: Molly Wells Forestview Middle School, Grade 6

Imagine you're a twelve-year-old student sitting in a classroom. Your teacher is explaining what an exponent is in math, but you aren't listening. It's 1941, and all you're thinking about is saying good-bye to your dad as he heads off to sacrifice his life in World War II.

Your dad is a U.S. Army soldier and the reason you're so worried is because you love him so much. Why would he leave you and your family? You have to know your dad loves you more than you can imagine. The fact that he has such courage and strength to be able to stand up for his country and risk his life to save yours shows just how much he loves you back.

Next time you sing the National Anthem think about why you are singing it. Without every soldier, whether they're twenty-five years old, or seventy-five, whether they were in World War II, Vietnam, Korea, or in any other war, you might not be alive today. Your life would just simply not be the same without all these brave, courageous soldiers. Be filled with pride and bravery next time you sing the National Anthem or say the Pledge of Allegiance. Give a big "Thank you!" salute to all who have served, because without them you wouldn't be seeing the great red white and blue flag waving in the wind today!

What Does Veterans Day Mean to Me? Shaylee Stroot 6th grade, St. Francis Catholic School Brainerd, MN

As I drive to my grandpa's house, I think about all the great memories we've had together. I can't wait to see the veteran that fought for our country. It's amazing the bravery and courage that people have, as they risk their lives for us. When I walk through the door, my grandpa's waiting there for me and I give him a great big hug. He tells about all the conditions that people have been in; 130 degree tents and people dying right in front of his eyes. You not only have to be physically strong but mentally strong.

Grandpa, you always make me laugh and feel special. I'm so proud that you served. I can't imagine the fear that was swirling in your head and everyone else's on the battlefield. I admire your courage and love for the country. I think of it as we wouldn't be a country today and that I wouldn't be writing this letter right now in this room.

Until recently, I never really knew what Veterans Day was. I am realizing that soldiers sacrifice their lives in so many ways. It is a day to reflect on the many men and women who have not only served and still serve their country, but also to remember the people that have died in battle, and are no longer with us. War has affected so many lives. Thank you SO much grandpa for everything. I'm so glad that you are still here today.

What Does Veterans Day Mean To Me?

Written By: Laura Wadsten
8th Grade Forestview Middle School

On June 1, 1954, Congress changed "Armistice Day" to "Veterans Day" so that the holiday would not only be to remember World War I, but all veterans. Although some would say that Veterans Day is not hugely significant, I disagree. To me, this holiday means a chance to reflect about those who gave their lives, be grateful for their service in defending our nation's beliefs, and a great day to thank a veteran.

First, Veterans Day is a day for you to remember all of the people who gave their lives serving in the military. In World War I, there were approximately 116,516 veterans killed in service. Every one of those soldiers had family here in America that were affected by his death.

Next, this holiday means a time to be grateful for the people who defend the beliefs our country. I cannot imagine what life would be like today if there had never been soldiers to fight for my rights as an American. If there had been nobody willing to fight Japan after the attack on Pearl Harbor, America could have been invaded, and we could all be speaking German or Japanese right now.

Lastly, November 11th means a day to celebrate all veterans, and you should use the holiday to thank someone who has served that is living today. Veterans gave so much of themselves when they served, and we need to honor that.

In conclusion, Veterans Day means a lot, and we should celebrate by reflecting on sacrifices, being grateful for soldiers who defended our country, and thanking a veteran.

What Does Veterans Day Mean To Me?

Written By: Joseph Hendrickson
8th Grade Crosslake Community School

Red, white, and blue flying high in the sky. Parades in honor of the heroes who serve our country and those who have died defending it. We celebrate this day because of the great deeds these courageous men and women have accomplished and the hardships they have faced doing so.

We celebrate this day because these heroes faced great danger and risked their lives for us every day. They lived in the shadow of possible death for sometimes years at a time and sometimes it caught up with them. But their selflessness is exactly the reason we celebrate them, because they gave their lives for their country, their people, and their freedom.

With this freedom that they give us, we should honor them in the highest fashion, with our hearts. We show it with parades, celebrations, and teaching our youth the importance of this holiday for what it's really about and not just a day off school. I believe everyone should honor this day with great respect and be glad we have people protecting us with their own lives.

"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave." This quote by Elmer Davis says that we will only be free if we are brave as well. Freedom is actually never free and always has a cost; in this case it's being brave. The braver we are the more freedom we gain.

BIG FUN AT ST. CLOUD VETERANS CASINO NITE

Friday, February 14 Brainerd Elks volunteers and a great group of veterans at the medical center enjoyed a lively time of playing casino type games of chance. The games were fast moving with most everyone winning some cash money. In fact, the winners used up the entire pot of dollars budgeted for the activity. Soda and treats were donated by Bob at Rohlfing's Supply. There are several people from the Veteran's Resource Center at Central Lakes College who have become more active in the St. Cloud project. They are Kelly Annabelle, Nick Belinski (and wife), and Paul McCormick. Our Brainerd Elks #615 people were Herman Wisneski (caller), Ron Bower, Ethel Olson, Dick Ashmun, Roy and Robin Schmidt, Dan Graven, and Sue Maxwell. Bingo night, April 11 is the next scheduled visit to the site. Contact Herman Wisneski or Dick Ashmun if you wish to volunteer.



In Memoriam



Andrew "Andy" Thomas

Born August 4, 1912
Initiated December 2, 1948
Passed Away February 1, 2014

Frank J. Murphy

Born January 9, 1927
Initiated November 2, 1955
Passed Away February 6, 2014

"They have passed into the Light which is beyond the valley of the shadow of death. The places that have known them shall know them no more. But their virtues are written upon the tablets of Love and Memory and they shall be revered for all time as true and faithful Elks "

March Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 01 Scott Longanecker | 18 Donn Stinson |
| 04 James Klang | 21 Thomas Larson |
| 08 Glen Gustafson | Craig Erpelding |
| 09 Glenn Guldberg | 23 Gary Bluth |
| 10 Herman Wisneski | James Hirvela |
| 12 Donald Stang | 29 Melvin Dahlberg |
| 16 Michael Aho | John Imgrund |
| Kurt Johnson | 31 Dale Nathan |
| 17 Mick Green | Lance Smith |

Happy Birthday!

The Elkorama is published monthly by the Brainerd Elks Lodge #615. 215 South 6th Street, Brainerd, MN 56401 It is mailed to members, widows and widowers of members.

The deadline for anyone wishing to place an article in the April issue of the Elkorama will be March 15. Please email them to vanuyns@charter.net or leave articles at the lodge. Thank you.

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james.dehen@essentiahealth.org

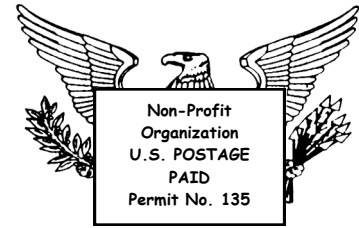
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**Officers of Brainerd Lodge #615
 2013-2014**

Exalted Ruler.....Dr. James Dehen, PER
 Leading Knight.....Bill Bailey, PER
 Loyal Knight.....Vacant
 Lecturing Knight.....Dan Graven
 Secretary.....Don Stang, PER
 Treasurer.....Vacant
 Esquire.....Jay Johnson
 Chaplain.....Jack Antolak
 Inner Guard..... Bruce Mogensen
 Tiler..... Vacant

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 3rd Year Trustee..... Conrad Bye
 4th Year Trustee.....Bruce Mogensen
 5th Year Trustee.....Jack Antolak

Editor.....Brad Busho
 Website: www.BrainerdElks.org
 Email: info@brainerdelks.org

March 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
LODGE/CLUB HOURS: Daily 3:00-9:00 Saturday 12:00-8:00						1
2 8:00-12:00 Breakfast at the Elks	3 5:30 Trustees 6:30 Lodge meeting	4 5:30-7:00 Family Dinner Night Entrée: Walleye	5	6 5:30-7:00 Burgers	7 5:30-7:00 Chef's Choice	8 12:00 Baxter Bass Snatchers meet
9 8:00-12:00 Breakfast at the Eagles	10	11 5:30-7:00 Family Dinner Night. Entrée: Chicken Cordon Bleu	12 11:00-1:00 Polish Sausage, Sauerkraut, Beans & Artisan Breads	13 5:30-7:00 Burgers 5:00 Burgers for The SHOP	14	15
16 8:00-12:00 Breakfast at the VFW	17 5:30 Trustees 6:30 Lodge meeting	18 5:30-7:00 Family Dinner Night. Entrée: Stuffed Pork Chops	19	20 5:30-7:00 Burgers	21 5:00-7:00 Chef's Choice: Tacos	22
23 8:00-12:00 Breakfast at the Legion	24	25 5:30-7:00 Family Dinner Night. Entrée: TBA	26	27 5:30-7:00 Burgers 5:00 Burgers for The SHOP	28	29
30 8:00-12:00 Breakfast at the Legion	31					