

Zephyrhills, FL www.elks.org/2731 September 2024

EXALTED RULER'S MESSAGE



Greetings to All! It is time for everyone to renew their relationship with your Elks Lodge. There has been a lot of activity around the Lodge in the past couple of months and there is a full schedule of events planned for the fall. During the month of August, the Lodge donated close to \$4000 of school supplies to local Zephyrhills school teachers. This was a tremendous

effort by your Lodge Officers and members. Money for the school supplies came from the Bingo charity account and other donations. Go to the Lodge's Facebook page for more details and information. The efforts of this group have earned them the Zephyrhills Elk Lodge Volunteers of the month for September.

During the summer there was a considerable amount of activity going on to repair and improve our Lodge. This included roof repairs to the backside of the building and water leak repairs in the bathrooms. A much needed improvement in the bathrooms was completed with the replacement of the sinks and faucets in both restrooms. Spectrum was also contracted to improve the telephone system and improve the Wi-Fi speed and coverage within the Lodge and in the RV area. Duke Energy is also scheduled to perform an electric use efficiency audit of our Lodge this fall.

One of the initiatives is to award scholarships to deserving local high school seniors. This is something that your Lodge did on a regular basis until a few years ago. The start of scholarship account funding has begun and the plan is to add more money to that account on a regular basis. If any member is interested in supporting this initiative, please contact the Exalted Ruler.

Presently, your Lodge is open Tuesday through Friday, closed Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The plan is to resume normal Lodge hours beginning on October 1. Until then there is a vibrant program of activities going on during the week. Tuesday is Karaoke and the fun starts at an earlier time of 3:30 pm and runs until almost 8:00 pm. A limited special menu is available from the kitchen on Tuesdays. Wednesday is Fry night, Queen



An update on the Freedom Grant, was presented to the local Veterans'Outpatient Clinic in Zephyrhills on July 9, 2024. Paul Nutting,PER, Judy Osgood, ENF chairman and Gerardo Navarro, Chief, for the Center for Development & Civic Engagement (formerly Volunteer Services) made the presentation.

They are very grateful for the help that the Zephyrhills Elks Lodge 2731 provides the Veterans'. The funds are available for patients (Veterans) needing Socks, T-Shirts, Underwear and Toiletries.

GER Randy Shook increased the per capita to \$5.00 per member for the year 2024-2025. The Lodge is working with 506 members, listed as ENF donors, with 12% active donors.

As of this date the lodge has 11 NEW ENF donors, and the Fidelity Club has 11 donors. Contact me or the office for a COIN TUBE or to become a FIDELITY CLUB donor. The final report for the FREEDOM GRANT has been submitted and approved.

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of Hearts and Bar Rodeo, Thursday is Bingo and Friday is the locally famous Fish Fry. There are plans to tune these events up and possibly offer a wider variety of meals.

The Lodge Programs committee is actively planning events throughout the season, stay tuned for updates and details. The Elks National Foundation (ENF) plays an important role in our Lodge. ENF provides funds for local projects, college scholarships, Youth activities, Veterans Service and Remembrance. Zephyrhills Lodge has applied for and received grants for charitable programs in the community. Our members have continued to donate and we exceeded our goal last year. Thanks! One way to donate to ENF is through the Fidelity Club. You can join the Club by donating automatically in a monthly giving program. Donations, many of which came through the Fidelity Club, helped provide nearly \$12.5 million which was reinvested in Lodge communities through CIP grants in 2023-24. Lodges also

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Elk of the Month

★ The Elk of the month is **Donna Moyer PER** for her outstanding work in ensuring that volunteers are available to support the Lodge meals. Thank you Donna!



Notwieer of the Month

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Happy Birthday!!!



Clip Coupon for Free Birthday Drink!

From The Lodge Secretary Nick Schwob



New Candidates for Membership	
Scott Blackman	
Michael David	
Stanley Ewing	
Terry Hoffman	
Jaqueline Peters	
Nancy Register	
Patricia Riggs	

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qualify for next year's Gratitude Grant by meeting the per-member-giving goal to the ENF; this year, that goal is \$5.00 per member, the same minimum monthly donation for Fidelity Club members. If that isn't enough, the Lodge can also receive a \$500 bonus for its Gratitude Grant if 5% of last year's donors are Fidelity Club members. More information is available on line at elks.org or by contacting our Lodge ENF Chair, Judy Osgood. Elks Care and Elks Share

In addition, ENF also provides many scholarships. One of which is the Most Valuable Student Scholarship. Applications for the 2025 Most Valuable Student Scholarship are open until November 12, 2024. All high school seniors who are United States citizens are eligible to apply. Judged based on leadership, service, academics, and financial need, the top 20 applicants receive \$30,000 scholarships. The 480 runners-up receive \$4,000. Learn more and apply at enf.elks.org/MVS.

The Lodge wants to express its appreciation to Rich Gest for his many years of service to the Lodge, as a member, Trustee, Drug Awareness Program Coordinator and Safety Officer. Rich s retiring and moving north to be with family. We will miss him and wish him well. These are big shoes to fill and your Lodge is looking for volunteers to step forward to fill any one of these three positions and pick up where Rich left off.

Thank you everyone – Elks Care and Elks Share Karl Finnimore, Exalted Ruler Elks – Elks Care and Elks Share.

Karl Finnimore

SUNDAY: CLOSED

MONDAY CLOSED

TUESDAY 3:00 PM—8:00 PM

★ WEDNESDAY
 ★ THURSDAY:
 ★ FRIDAY
 3:00 PM—8:00 PM
 ★ FRIDAY
 3:00 PM—8:00 PM
 ★ FRIDAY

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SATURDAY CLOSED



Zephyrhills Elks Lodge #2731 Gives to Local Schools

Once again the Zephyrhills Elks Lodge had funds to donate for school supplies. Randy Light, Esteemed Lecturing Knight, suggested we "Adopt a Teacher." The funds for this program came from the Bingo Charity Account.

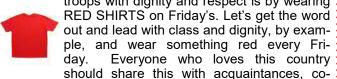
The lodge wants to thank Kathy Honkala and her Bingo Staff for all their hard work. The Bingo Income after their expenses must become Charity Funds to be donated to a community cause. This year the fund goes to supply school rooms with necessities needed for students and teachers, these items are sometimes supplied by the teacher.

A big Thank You goes out to the Elks Lodge Officers and Members who helped organize, pack up and deliver the packages. A particular thank you to Randy Light and his son Daniel, Barbara Edyburn, Nick Schwob, Ilene Nutting, Ken Fabaini, Paul Nutting, Keith Barcomb, and Barbara Conklin.

The Zephyrhills Elks Lodge was pleased to donate the \$4000.00 for supplies to Woodland Elementary and Chester Taylor Elementary School Adopt A Teacher Program!

RED SHIRT FRIDAY'S

Our idea of showing solidarity and support for our troops with dignity and respect is by wearing



workers, friends and family.

LETS SHOW OUR SUPPORT BY WEARING SOMETHING RED!

HELP, HELP, HELP!



Won't you please help.....When finished with your beverage from the bar please return your glasses to the bar, and any other dishes to the dirty dish station.

As you know, this is an all volunteer Lodge in many of the areas and we could use your help. We often find it difficult to find volunteers to work the dining and bar areas, and if you could help with this duty we would appreciate it.

Thank you!

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The ENF Chairman is looking for a member interested in working with donations and grants for ENF.

Thank you to the members for supporting the Lodge and ENF.

Judy Osgood,

ENF Chairman







Friday September 13th is Friday night fish fry at 4:30.

The vets from James Haley hospital are coming for dinner at our lodge! Please come and

welcome them, stop by and talk with them and make them feel welcome!

THE HORSES ARE COMING!

Saturday, September 21

5:00 p.m.— PotluckBRING your favorite dish to share! **HORSE RACING**FOLLOWING the potluck



Come cheer on your favorite horse: Charity, Justice, Fidelity, Loyalty, Patriotic or Brotherly Love

AND your favorite jockey!

All bets go to winner

Come try your luck!





MARK YDUR CALENDARS!

The following events are planned for the next few months. We are inviting all members to mark your calendars and come and enjoy the activities!

SEPTEMBER 21: POTLUCK & HORSE RACING



OCTOBER 19: OCTOBERFEST



NOVEMBER 16: CARNIVAL NIGHT



DECEMBER 31: NEW YEAR'S EVE



JANUARY 18: MYSTERY NIGHT



FEBRUARY 15: MARDI GRAS



MARCH 15 HAWIIAN LUAU



APRIL 12: AFTERNOON TEA & FASHION SHOW



More detailed information (cost for tickets, menu, activities, etc.) will be posted prior to each event

Wednesday Menus Are On The Tables in Lounge 4:30-6:30PM

September 2024 note—lodge closed labor day

LOUNGE HOURS 3:00-8:00 PM Tuesday thru Friday

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Labo	or Day	Karla's Karaoke 3:30PM Chef's Menu	4 Euchre 3:00 PM Wednesday Meal 4:30 Games 5:30-7:30PM	5 Bingo Doors Open at 4 PM	6 FISH FRY 4:30—6:30 PM	7 Lodge Closed
8 Lodge Closed	9 Lodge Closed	Karla's Karaoke 3:30PM Chef's Menu	Euchre 3:00 PM Wednesday Meal 4:30 Games 5:30-7:30PM	Bingo Doors Open at 4 PM	13 FISH FRY 4:30—6:30 PM	Lodge Closed
Lodge Closed	16 Lodge Closed House Committee 9:00 AM BOD Meeting 10:00 AM Orientation 5:45 PM Lodge Meeting Initiation 7:00 PM	Karla's Karaoke 3:30PM Chgf's Menu	Euchre 3:00 PM Wednesday Meal 4:30 Games 5:30-7:30PM	Bingo Doors Open at 4 PM	FISH FRY 4:30—6:30 PM	Pot Luck & Horse Racing 5:00 PM
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Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America A Fraternal Organization

Joseph D. "Joe" Pepe, PDD, State Chair C Valentine Bates Memorial Hope Scholarship

844 SE Sweetbay Ave • Port St Lucie, FL 34983-4647 (772)618-3923© • jdpepe@aol.com

June 5, 2024

Greetings C. Valentine Bates Memorial Hope Scholarship District Chairs;

I would like to introduce myself as the standing State Chairperson of the C. Valentine Bates Memorial HOPE Scholarship. I have been appointed to another term as State Chair by State President, Russell J. Smith at the FSEA State Convention. Our goal is to promote our scholarship to all Florida High School Seniors whose unweighted GPAs are in the range of 2.30 to 3.59. The committee's main priority remains, to increase the number of Florida Seniors applying for the C. Valentine Bates Memorial HOPE Scholarship.

As District Chairs your assistance is critical in promoting the scholarship in your communities. We suggest that you take the following steps to achieve our goals:

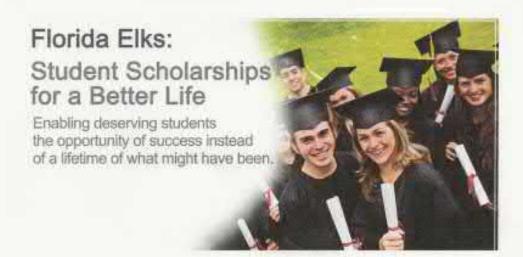
- Make sure each lodge in your district has a CVB HOPE Scholarship chairperson and regularly communicate with them
- Send Lodge CVB HOPE Scholarship Chairs contact information to the regional chairs in your district ASAP
- Collaborate with your DD and DVP to make scholarship presentations at the required DD Clinics
- Suggest that each Lodge promote the Scholarship in their bulletins starting in August and ending in January
- Suggest that the lodge chairs solicit local businesses that employ high school students like; Publix, McDonalds etc.
- Our scholarship's application is scheduled to open on August 1, 2024
- Request scholarship brochures from the FSEA website, under Supplies, and distribute them to the lodges in your district. Brochures come in lots of 100 with a \$10 shipping fee
- Ask ERs to include all FSEA and ENF scholarships in their Orientation Programs for new members

I am confident with your assistance and the DDs And DVPs in your districts that we will have another banner year with regard to the number of candidates applying for the C. Valentine Bates Memorial HOPE Scholarship. If each lodge sponsors one applicant, we will far surpass our goal. I'm attaching a contact sheet of the CVB Scholarship's Regional Committee Member in your District. I would like you to compile a list of each lodge scholarship chair in your district, and send it to the committee member in your region.

I and your Regional Directors are looking forward to working with you in providing financial support for the educational needs of Florida high school seniors without which they would not be able to achieve their educational goals. Our Regional Directors and I are always available to assist you. Feel free to contact us with any questions. I'm looking forward to congratulating you and thanking you for a job well done.

Fraternally, Joseph D. Pepe, PDDGER

FSEA Sponsored Scholarships



C. Valentine Bates Memorial HOPE Scholarship



The mission of the Florida State Elks
Association C. Valentine Bates Memorial
HOPE Scholarship is to provide financial
support for the educational needs of
Florida high school seniors without which
they would not be able to achieve their
educational goals.

The scholarship targets students who have a 2.30 - 3.59 unweighted GPA.

The 2025 application period opens August 1, 2024 with applications due by January 17, 2025

Download Application at floridaelks.org/hope-scholarship