



# Buck and Doe

B.P.O.E. Lodge 2731 Newsletter



Zephyrhills, FL

[www.elks.org/2731](http://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



Elks National Foundation, Inc.

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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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.— Potluck**  
BRING 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 YOUR 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



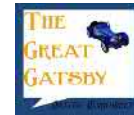
**OCTOBER 19:**  
OCTOBERFEST



**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

**LOUNGE  
HOURS  
3:00—8:00 PM  
Tuesday thru  
Friday**

**NOTE—LODGE CLOSED LABOR DAY**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 <b>Labor Day</b>		3 <b>Karla's Karaoke 3:30PM Chef's Menu</b>	4 Euchre 3:00 PM Wednesday Meal 4:30 Games 5:30-7:30PM	5 Bingo Doors Open at 4 PM	6 <b>FISH FRY 4:30—6:30 PM</b>	7 <b>Lodge Closed</b>
8 <b>Lodge Closed</b>	9 <b>Lodge Closed</b>	10 <b>Karla's Karaoke 3:30PM Chef's Menu</b>	11 Euchre 3:00 PM Wednesday Meal 4:30 Games 5:30-7:30PM	12 Bingo Doors Open at 4 PM	13 <b>FISH FRY 4:30—6:30 PM</b>	14 <b>Lodge Closed</b>
15 <b>Lodge Closed</b>	16 <b>Lodge Closed</b> House Committee 9:00 AM BOD Meeting 10:00 AM Orientation 5:45 PM Lodge Meeting Initiation 7:00 PM	17 <b>Karla's Karaoke 3:30PM Chef's Menu</b>	18 Euchre 3:00 PM Wednesday Meal 4:30 Games 5:30-7:30PM	19 Bingo Doors Open at 4 PM	20 <b>FISH FRY 4:30—6:30 PM</b>	21 <b>Pot Luck &amp; Horse Racing  5:00 PM</b>
22 <b>Lodge Closed</b>	23 <b>Lodge Closed</b>	24 <b>Karla's Karaoke 3:30PM Chef's Menu</b>	25 Euchre 3:00 PM Wednesday Meal 4:30 Games 5:30-7:30PM	26 Bingo Doors Open at 4 PM	27 <b>FISH FRY 4:30—6:30 PM</b>	28 <b>Lodge Closed</b>
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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**  
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(772)618-3923 • [jdpepe@aol.com](mailto: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

## Florida Elks: Student Scholarships for a Better Life

Enabling deserving students  
the opportunity of success instead  
of a lifetime of what might have been.



### 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](http://floridaelks.org/hope-scholarship)**