



## Exalted Ruler

## Lodge 497

Welcome to July and all the heat and people that come with it. I sincerely hope you have some plans to relax with family and friends, and of course the lodge is a perfect place to do it! We have a jam-packed schedule this month, starting with myself and some of your fellow Elks attending the Grand Lodge convention in Austin. There were a few resolutions that have been voted on, so please come to the lodge meeting on the 11th to find out what has changed.

Next up is the 4th of July fireworks, traditionally held both at the beach and also in town. They always impress, so plan on being here to witness it! Of course, what would July be if not for the Blue Angels air shows on the 12th and 13th. Parking is always a challenge on those days, and we will have parking lot monitors on both days. If you are coming out for the show, please make sure your car has a decal and you bring your membership card – both will be checked to ensure our members have spots. Also, as part of the LOE basket raffle, I will be donating my parking spot on the 13th for the lucky winner!

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you that you, our members, are the life blood of this organization. YOU are what make Elkdom great, and without you we

wouldn't have a lodge. Speaking of that, we have approximately 150 members from last year that haven't paid their dues. I would ask that if you know anyone who has not paid, please reach out to them to remind them that they will need to pay in order to enjoy all that we love about our little slice of paradise. I also have a challenge for each and every one of you – my ask to you is for you to bring at least 1 of your friends into our order and help us grow our lodge to make it better than it is now! Our **State President Russ Smith** has challenged all lodges to increase our membership by 3,000 members statewide, so let's see how much we can make a dent in that total. I believe there will also be a prize for the district that has the most growth, so let's show Russ why we are the GREAT Northwest District! Thank you all again for making my motto One Team become a reality!

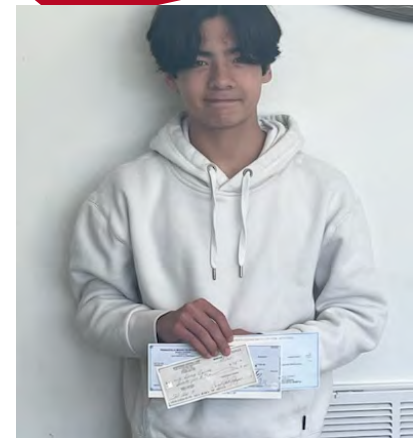
**See You at the Lodge,**  
**Fraternally,**  
**Jim Rodriguez, ER**

## Americanism Essay Contest Winners



**Lucas Cannon**  
3rd in the State and Winner 2nd in the District Americanism Essay Contest

**Tessa Mittlestadt**  
1st in the District Division IV Winner of the Americanism Essay Contest



# Ladies of the Elks

Summer is definitely upon us! I hope everyone is able to "beat the heat" by traveling to the beach and having a cold one in our cool and comfortable bar. The LOEs have been busy around the lodge. You will notice that bunting is hanging outdoors and decorations galore adorn the second floor just in time for Fourth of July and Blue Angels beach week. Thanks to all the ladies who ventured out in the heat to assist with these patriotic enhancements to our lodge! What a tribute to the USA!!

We are busy planning fun events for the year, the first of which is a chicken fried steak dinner and bingo night to be held on Saturday, August 3rd. Dinner will be prepared by Milton Andress and will include salad, chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, and rolls. LOE members will provide homemade desserts for you to enjoy! Tickets for dinner will be on sale this month at the lodge. Watch for a Constant Contact with further information or call me at (850) 291-7136 if you have questions.

After dinner which will be served beginning at 5:30pm, we will hold a special night of bingo to be called by bingo master extraordinaire, Ron Christiansen. Bingo begins at 7:00pm. Many folks have been asking the lodge to hold bingo on a Saturday evening on occasion. The LOEs have risen to the challenge and are happy to host this special event as a fundraiser. All proceeds will go to LOE charities so come for dinner, come for bingo, or stay for both! NOTE: This event does NOT replace regular Monday bingo which will continue as usual on August 5th.

I'd like to welcome new LOE members Lynda Bonner, Patti Droese, Tanya Finney, Angie Hollis, Pam McGinty, Debra Barlow, Carolyn Crumholt, and Elizabeth Trump all of whom have joined in the new fiscal year! If you are a female Elk or the spouse of an Elk and would like to see what we are all about, be our guest at the next meeting on Thursday, August 1st (there is no meeting this month due to Fourth of July and Blue Angels week). It will be held at 7:00pm in the 3rd floor meeting room. We would love for you to check out what we do and consider joining our great group of ladies! Have a safe but festive Fourth! See you at the lodge for the Blue Angels beach show!!

**Jamie Ferbezar**  
LOE President

## Attention: Direction from the Grand Lodge

**Grand Lodge often receives inquiries about Section 16.150**, Opinion 1-4, of the Laws of the Order, pertaining to Lodge bulletins/newsletters being e-mailed or posted on publicly accessed Elk's website. **To Clarify the main point,**

Exalted Ruler	Jim Rodriguez
Leading Knight	Greg Eddins
Loyal Knight	Ingo Starke
Lecturing Knight	Shane Blackford
Treasurer	Lisa M. Levchik
Esquire	Shannon Fell
Tiler	Clayton Sanders
Chaplain	Johnny Graves
Inner Guard	Tammy Eddins
Presiding Justice	Hiram Hill
Lodge Advisor	John Unzicker
	Toni Palmer
BOD Chairman	Greg Eddins
5 Year Trustee	Ken Burkner
4 Year Trustee	Debra Patroni
3 Year Trustee	Dan Smith
2 Year Trustee	Will Berry
1 Year Trustee	Nina Summer
Accident Prevention	Ramsey Landry
Americanism	CK Dupuis
Army of Hop	Carey Seigle
Asst. Dock Master	Dave Dalton
Auditing	Cathy Hendrix
Blood Bank	Celeste Whisenant
Club Manager	David Christian
Community Activities	Ron Christian
Dock Master	David Dalton
Drug Awareness	Sandra Hansen
Entertainment	Celeste Whisenant
Flag Day	Robert Randall
Harry-Anna	Chris Wells
Hoof Prints	Steve Dupuis
Hoop Shoot	David Dalton, Jr.
Investigation	Ron Castle
Lapsation	Shelli Branch
LOE President	Jamie Ferbezar
Maintenance	Will "Dude" Hausmann
Marketing	Steve Dupuis
Mediator	Ramsey Landry
Membership	Lisa Levchik
Memorial Service	Beryle Farmer
Nat'l. Foundation	Sandy Milburn
Nat'l Vet. Service	Pam McGinty
Orientation	Cap Pratt
Therapy Services	Chris Wells
Training	Vacant
Under 40	Slater Dance
Webmaster	Steve Dupuis
Youth Camp	Larry Bragg

**DO NOT publish or post Lodge Hoof Prints, other bulletins, newsletters, or notices meant for Members only, on ANY websites or other social media platforms that are open to the public.**

## Past Exalted Rulers (PERs)

As we are rolling into July there will be a lot going on, so come on out enjoy the 4th and the Blue Angels show 12th and 13th July at the Lodge. It is always a GREAT time. Currently, the Association is conducting a raffle for a 34 inch Traeger Pellet Grill/ Smoker. It's a beauty! We (KB) assembled the grill and placed it by the kitchen entrance. Tickets are \$20 each and we will only sell 100. Drawing will be held when all tickets are sold!

**HAPPY 4th of July everyone!!!**



**Fraternally,**  
**Wayne Levchik, PER**  
President PER Association

# Seawall Project Proposal

As Chairman of the Board, Leading Knight, and authorized person to act on behalf of Pensacola Beach Lodge #497, I submit the following proposal for the "Seawall Project" for your approval. The sole purpose of this project is to stop the erosion and loss of property along the coastline on the west side of our property adjacent to Little Sabine waterway.

After securing, reviewing, studying, and completing lengthy discussions concerning four separate estimates from four local, licensed and insured marine construction companies, the Board of Directors has approved the estimate submitted by Gulf Marine Construction, Inc. and recommend approval from the Lodge.

## The estimate is "turn key" and includes fees for services as follows:

Permit preparations and engineering.....	\$1700
Applications and permit fees.....	\$820
Mobilization of heavy equipment, set up and clean up.....	\$1850
Digging up and replacing Palm trees.....	\$1200
Furnish Labor and materials to construct seawall.....	\$58,190
Back fill sand (approved by SRIA) delivered and installed..	\$14,500
Skid steer use and operator for back fill etc.....	\$5000
TOTAL COST.....	\$83,260

The Lodge will not incur any indebtedness for engaging in this contract for the Seawall Project as payment will come from our Operating Account. This Proposal, having been read on the floor of the Lodge June 13, 2024 will be voted on at our regular stated meeting July 11, 2024 at Pensacola Beach Lodge #497 on the third floor at 7pm.

Fraternally,  
**Greg Eddins**  
Esteemed Leading Knight  
Chairman of the Board

**Vote On This Proposal Thursday July 11<sup>th</sup>**



## What the Bill of Rights Means to Me. Lucas Cannon (see page 1) Americanism Essay Winner

For me, the Bill of Rights represents the very reason that I am an American. It is this country's protection of individual freedoms through the Bill of Rights that my grandmother sought when she escaped communist Vietnam. And because she made that journey, I was born an American citizen and am free to express myself, whether through speech or petition. I can live my life knowing I have the rights that make America great.

Part of what makes me a U.S. citizen is that I can be myself, practice my own religion, wear what I want, and speak my mind. These are my rights under the 1st Amendment. Unlike in other countries where the citizens are forced to practice a certain religion, wear specific clothing, or hide their thoughts from the public, under the Bill of Rights, I do not have to hide my beliefs.

The Bill of Rights also protects me from being unfairly searched and from the government taking my property without compensation. To me this is an important part of being an American and a respected human being. If I can't be trusted by my own government to make some decisions, I don't know if I'd want to be a part of its nation.

The Bill of Rights is essential to me because it guarantees the fundamental rights of all Americans. It is the backbone of our country. The Bill of Rights holds all the people in the U.S together and lets America thrive.

Overall, having a Bill of Rights in the Constitution is what makes the United States the greatest country in the world and what made my family want to be Americans. It is why I love being an American.

**- Lucas Cannon, Gulf Breeze Middle School 8th grade**

# Milton Andress

Some of you may not know Milton, but many of you have sampled his delicious, behind the scenes cooking at the Lodge's every week Taco Tuesday. Except during the Covid years, Milton has been the key force behind Taco Tuesday since he joined our Elks Lodge in 2012.

Milton was born in East Stroudsburg, PA and moved to the Pensacola in 1959 because of his father visiting his older brother in Pensacola and while in Pensacola, applying for a job at Chemstrand, at one time the largest manufacturer of synthetic fiber used in carpets. Milton's father was hired on the spot as a tool and die maker and he immediately moved the family to Pensacola. Just after Milton graduated from Woodham High School, he married his high school sweetheart, Deborah Moore Andress. They have been married 56 years and have twin adult sons, Bill & Joe. Milton credits Deborah for all the work she also does on behalf of the Lodge and for her support of his Elks volunteer work. Deborah served this past year as Lodge Treasurer.



Milton retired from Airgas in 2012 as Senior Chemical Plant Operator and shortly after, he became aware of the Elks while visiting friends in Galveston, TX and attending a New Year's Eve party at the Lodge there. Milton and Deborah had such a good time, they came home and researched joining an area Lodge. They credit Ernie & Susan Sluter for helping them join our Lodge 497. Milton and Deborah love being Elks because of all the good friends they've made at our Lodge. They're grateful for all the opportunities to meet new people and also volunteer and participate in so many varied activities.

Milton's main hobby is evident: service to our Lodge. While serving as Lecturing Knight in 2018, he was awarded the honor of "Officer of the Year." While serving as Tiler in 2019, he was titled with the "Elks Distinguished Citizen's Award." In 2021 he was named "Elk of the Year" for getting Taco Tuesday started up again after the COVID scare had shut down activities at the Lodge. Milton and Deborah were also instrumental in getting Friday night entertainment started again after the COVID shutdown by paying for the entertainers out of their own funds for six months until it was again feasible for the Lodge to assume financial responsibility. After the COVID shutdown was over, Milton and Deborah also initiated Friday night dinners solely using volunteers. For all of Milton's volunteerism to get activities going again after the COVID shutdown, Ron Christian nominated Milton for "Honorary Life Member" which was approved by membership vote. Milton has also recently served for two years as "Loyal Knight." Additionally, Milton has fundraised for the Lodge by selling tickets for handcrafted wooden rockers and a glider. Milton also spearheaded two successful fundraisers for Matthew Hooper when he had cancer and couldn't work. If Milton were to manage any spare time, he enjoys saltwater fishing.

Milton not only thanks his wife, Deborah, for her Elks' help to him, but also the LOEs. He gives special thanks to Harriet Gossett and Betty Hooper for forming and maintaining the Taco Tuesday volunteer teams and Steve Ferbezar for washing dishes and helping out every Taco Tuesday. He also thanks all the volunteer Taco Tuesday servers.

Milton ended the interview by saying, "My wish is that more members would attend meetings to get to know how the Lodge operates and to please become a volunteer in some capacity. There are so many opportunities to serve our Lodge."

**We appreciate Milton's friendship and selfless volunteerism to the Lodge! Please say hello to him and thank him the next time you see him.**





# July

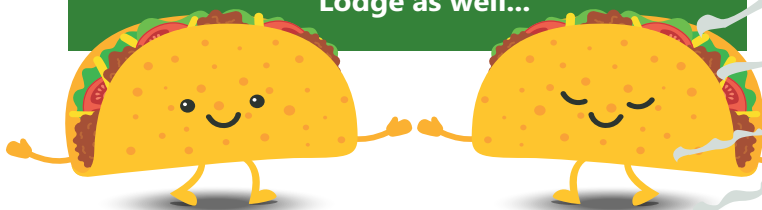
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	<b>BLUE ANGELS 1</b> <b>BASKET RAFFLE</b> <b>DRAWING 10AM</b> <b>LOE Officer Mtg</b> 10:00 Am3rd Floor <b>LOE Decorating</b> 1:00 PM 2nd Floor <b>Bingo 6PM</b>	2 <b>Taco Tuesday</b> 5:00 - 7:00 PM	3  <b>DART LEAGUE</b> 7:00 PM	 4  <b>BURGERS &amp; HOT DOGS</b> <b>STARTING AT 4PM</b> <b>CELEBRATE THE 4TH OF JULY</b>	5 <b>DINNER</b>  <b>The Koolerators (Paul &amp; Jeff)</b> 6:00 - 10:00 PM	6	
7 <b>BREAKFAST</b> 10:00AM - 1:00PM	8 <b>Bingo</b> 6:00 PM	9 <b>Taco Tuesday</b> 5:00 - 7:00 PM <b>New Member Interviews</b> <b>Start 5:30PM</b>	10  <b>DART LEAGUE</b> 7:00 PM	<b>BLUES ANGEL WEEKEND</b>  <b>BURGERS &amp; HOT DOGS</b> <b>STARTING AT NOON</b> <b>JUL 11<sup>TH</sup>, 12<sup>TH</sup> &amp; 13<sup>TH</sup></b> <b>Lodge Meeting</b> 7:00 PM		 <b>JP'S TOUCH OF CLASS</b> James Proctor 6:00 - 10:00 PM	 <b>Karaoke with Shannon + Birthday Bash</b> <b>Celebrate July BDs</b>
14 <b>BREAKFAST</b> 10:00AM - 1:00PM	15 <b>Bingo</b> 6:00 PM	16 <b>Taco Tuesday</b> 5:00 - 7:00 PM	17  <b>DART LEAGUE</b> 7:00 PM	18 <b>BOD Meeting &amp; Governing Body</b> 6:00 PM Queen of Hearts ~8:00 PM	19 <b>DINNER</b>  <b>Platinum Premier Duo (Misty &amp; Loren)</b> 6:00 - 10:00 PM	20	
21 <b>BREAKFAST</b> 10:00AM - 1:00PM	22 <b>Bingo</b> 6:00 PM	23 <b>Taco Tuesday</b> 5:00 - 7:00 PM <b>New Member Orientation 6PM</b>	24  <b>DART LEAGUE</b> 7:00 PM	25 <b>Lodge Meeting &amp; Initiation</b> 7:00 PM Queen of Hearts ~8:00 PM	 26 <b>'Tomato'</b> <b>DINNER &amp;</b> 6:00 - 10:00 PM	27	
28 <b>BRUNCH</b> 10:00AM - 1:00PM	29 <b>Bingo</b> 6:00 PM	30 	31 <b>DART LEAGUE BANQUET</b>	 <b>FOOD EVENTS   HAMBURGERS AND HOTDOGS</b> <b>July 4th Celebration Starts 4pm</b> <b>July 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> Food Starts Noon</b>			

## TACO TUESDAY

Just Show Up...

**We Can Always Use Help!**

There's a Signup List at the Lodge as well...



# BLUE ANGELS

## SHOW JULY 13<sup>TH</sup>

# Elks Do's and Don'ts

No food brought into the Lodge on Bingo night, or any other when food is being served. Scheduled events i.e. birthday parties ect. are OK.

- Popcorn will not be served when we are serving food in the Lodge.
- All guests must be signed in by a member and can NOT pay for liquor.
- No liquor will be brought in or taken from the Lodge.
- Doors are not to be left open for anyone to walk inside.



**Charlie Rotenberry**  
Broker Associate

## Island Realty of Pensacola Beach

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# From the Secretary

Please review the applications for prospective new members that you propose before submitting them to the Membership Committee. Make sure they are filled out legibly and completely. They must be signed/dated by the Proposer and the Applicant and we must have a **middle initial** for the background check. There is also a \$200 application fee which

needs to be turned in with the application. We cannot process until everything is complete. Please keep in mind that it can take 4-6 weeks to complete the process of getting initiated depending on when you turn in the application.

## July

**Interviews:** Tuesday, July 9th on the 2nd floor beginning at 5:30pm. Please sign in on the sign-up sheet by the library.

**Orientation:** Tuesday, July 23rd 3rd floor 6pm.

**Initiation Meeting:** Thursday, July, 25th, Meet on the 2nd floor at 6:15pm for further instructions.

**Lisa Levchik**  
SecretaryElks497@gmail.com

Office Hours Mon & Thurs 1-5pm

### Club Hours

Mon-Thurs : **Noon - Til**  
Friday : **Noon - Til**  
Saturday : **Noon - Til**  
Sunday : **Noon - Til**

Phone: (850) 932-4444  
Secretary: (850) 932-8050  
Reservations: (850) 932-4444  
Club Manager: [beach.elks497@yahoo.com](mailto:beach.elks497@yahoo.com)  
[www.elks.org/Lodges/home.cfm?Lodgenumber=0497](http://www.elks.org/Lodges/home.cfm?Lodgenumber=0497)



Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks  
P.O. Box 551  
Gulf Breeze, FL 32562-0551

Please attend Lodge meetings.  
Project 50 Percent: One meeting a month, 12 hours a year. It's not too much to ask.

Or Current Resident

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