



Arlington- Fairfax Elks Lodge #2188

THE ELKS HORN

Proudly Serving Our Community Since 1961

MAY 2020 EDITION

Message from Exalted Ruler Larry Fisher, Jr.



As we experience a time in our lives where we are used to coming and going as we please, it might be a good time to reevaluate how much time is spent on our wants vs. our needs. As an Elk, we should reflect on our mission statement. Part of that statement mentions that the Elks will serve the people and its communities. We all now have the opportunity to do just that – in a reasonably safe way. First, take care of you and your family. With all the restrictions upon us, we can still reach out to contribute to those in need. Whether it is by donation of goods, volunteering in person, providing professional assistance to

others, or just by doing your part to reach out to keep in touch with those isolated from their loved ones or friends, you can make use of this unprecedented down time to brighten someone's life a little bit. Our Lodge has a very diverse membership and I urge you to take advantage of it. If you are a small business owner, employee who has have been laid off/furloughed, or have had a reduction in working hours, there are many options available with expanded unemployment programs, etc. If you need help understanding some of the new government programs laid out in the CARES Act or subsequent bills, we can put you in touch with another member who works professionally in these areas and can help you find the best program to use or provide educational resources. These programs are evolving by the week. Please feel free to call or email me and I can connect you to a member who can help.

If you are interested in physically helping out with meals for FCPS, please contact Ahley Stead @ Ashley.Stead@yahoo.com. For most of us though, especially those in high risk categories, the best course of action is to stay home and reduce the spread of COVID-19. We have no physical access to our Lodge currently, but we can stay in touch virtually using our phones and devices. Keep lines of communication open with fellow members to see that they are okay and please reach out if you find yourself in need of assistance. We are all here for each other.

I would like to **tentatively** announce that on May 16th, starting at 10:00 a.m., we will have our **Lodge Cleanup Day**. Our goal is to work on the exterior of the building and grounds. I am looking for volunteers to work outside (while, of course, following social distancing guidelines). To volunteer, please email me by May 10th (LarryBPOE2188@gmail.com). Look out for more information soon.

In closing, I want you to know that we will move past this hardship in our lives and once again enjoy the company of our Elks community. Stay safe! (**Larry Fisher, Exalted Ruler** LarryBPOE2188@gmail.com)

ELK OF THE MONTH – MAY 2020



My choice for **Elk-of-the-Month** for May 2020 is member **Jennifer Morris**. Even though she is a staff employee, Jen is also a member of our Lodge. Prior to our Lodge closing due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Jen was recognized by many for going above and beyond her duties -- she is ever willing to help at the Lodge whenever needed.

Thanks, Jen, and congratulations!

Who We Are

The Elks Horn newsletter is published monthly (except when combined in July/August) by Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge #2188, located at 8421 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax, VA 22031. It is e-mailed and mailed to the Lodge membership, as well as to the Lodge Secretary of each Elks lodge in the State of Virginia. **Visit the #2188 website at www.bpoe2188.org.**

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(ATTENTION: The deadline for submitting articles for The Elks Horn is the 15th of each month.)

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SECRETARY:

Jan Sullivan (703) 560-2188, Press 2
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If you need to see me at any time during the week, please give me a call and we can schedule a time to meet.



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OFFICERS 2020-2021

Exalted Ruler: Larry Fisher, Jr.
Leading Knight: Christine Marie Caldwell
Loyal Knight: Ashley Stead
Lecturing Knight: Joyce Loftis
Secretary: Jan Sullivan (703) 560-2188, Ext. 2
Treasurer: Tom Loftis (703) 560-2188, Ext. 4
Tiler: Albert Cervantes
Esquire: PER Laurie Fearis
Chaplain: Georgianna Knotts
Inner Guard: Mark Kaplon
Presiding Justice: (vacancy)

TRUSTEES 2020-2021

Trustee-1st Year: Pamela McCarthy
Trustee-2nd Year: Diane Kaplon
Trustee-3rd Year: PER Steve Thiebaut (Chairman)
Trustee-4th Year: PER Frank Burns
Trustee-5th Year: PER Jim Weed

FRATERNAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Auditing: Brett Mullins/ Brian Singleton/ Marcia Mitrano
Community Activities: Michael Maloney
Public Relations: Rose Thiebaut (Newsletter "The Elks Horn") and Jan Sullivan & Rose Thiebaut (News Flashes)

For the Grand Lodge newsletter, go to www.elks.org to create an account

For the Virginia Elks Association newsletter, go to www.virginiaelks.org to sign up.

WiFi is available at the Lodge. Please see the bartender-on-duty for the Access Code.

Are you on **active duty** with the U.S. military? Contact the Lodge Secretary for details concerning membership dues.

Membership

The Order is a non-political, non-sectarian and strictly American fraternity. Proposal for membership in the Order is only by invitation of a member in good standing. To be accepted as a member, one must be an American citizen, believe in God, be of good moral character, and be at least 21 years old.



Installation of Officers

New Lodge Officers Installed on
Wednesday, March 25, 2020:

Exalted Ruler: Larry Fisher

Esteemed Leading Knight: Christine
Marie Caldwell

Esteemed Loyal Knight: Ashley M.
Stead

Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Joyce
Loftis

Esquire: PER Laurie Fearis

Inner Guard: Mark Kaplon

Tiler: Albert Cervantes

Five-Year Trustee: PER James Weed
Installed on Tuesday, March 24, 2020

The **Secretary, Treasurer and Chaplain**
were re-elected and will be installed
when the Lodge reopens for meetings



The **Exalted Ruler** is the head or President of the Lodge and oversees all the work done by the Committees and members. The duties of the Exalted Ruler are more fully given in Article V, Section 2 of our Bylaws. The Esteemed Leading Knight is to serve as the backup to the Exalted Ruler. The duties of the other officers are defined in Sections 4 and 5.

The **Trustees** are to oversee the maintenance of the building and grounds. Their further duties are also provided in Section 6 of the Bylaws. The Board of Trustees' actions are all subject to the control of the Lodge membership. Each year, one Trustee is elected for a five-year term. This provides for continuity on the Board of Trustees.

Virginia Elks Association 2020 Spring Convention – Cancelled

After consultation with VEA Leadership and the Convention Hotel, and with the Governor's Executive Order and the health and safety of our Members in mind, the VEA Trustees have cancelled the VEA Annual Convention, scheduled for June 11-14, 2020 in Falls Church, VA. The following are details associated with the cancellation.

Pre-registration - Refunds will be issued to Members who have already registered. For those who registered online, refunds will be issued to the credit card used for pre-registration. For those who registered by mail, refunds will be issued or checks returned in the coming weeks.

Hotel Reservations- Members who made room reservations should cancel those reservations immediately. There will be no charges for cancellations.

VEA Charitable Trust Fund – The “Exalted Ruler Walk” usually held at the June Convention to receive Lodge donations for the Charitable Trust Fund will be conducted at the Fall Convention.

State Officers/State Chairs – VEA leaders will consider alternative forms of meeting to install President-Elect, John Owen, and all other State Officers for 2020-2021, on or about June 13, 2020. They will immediately assume office. This meeting may take the form of a small gathering of VEA leaders, or by video- or tele-conference.

All forthcoming details and updates will be emailed to Lodges through the State Secretary, the State Website (www.vaelks.org) and by Social Media.

All Virginia Elks are encouraged to stay at home, practice Social Distancing, and follow all Federal guidelines for self-protection. Lodge Officers and Members are encouraged to conduct Lodge and District meetings by video- or tele- conference, or other allowable means, until expiration of the Governor's Orders.

These are unprecedented times. We share the same frustrations, disappointments and concerns. However, the Elks have always shined brightest in times of crisis and when overcoming adversity. You, the Elks Lodges of Virginia, have already taken this unique opportunity to, again, prove yourselves invaluable leaders and partners in your communities. We know you will continue to do all you can, and the best you can, until this crisis is over. We will make it through these times. The VEA and our Lodges will come out of this challenge even stronger and more ready to serve! Knowing this, we say “Thank You!” Stay safe and be well.

Fraternally, *Frank Burns, President, Virginia Elks Association*

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

All Lodge activities were cancelled for March and April due to the Coronavirus outbreak. We will keep you posted of all updates via news flash emails, and a Lodge calendar will be distributed as soon as the Lodge can return to normal business hours and activities.

All Virginians directed to stay at home except for allowable travel including:

- to seek medical attention
- work
- care for family or household members
- obtain goods and services like groceries, prescriptions, and others; and
- engage in outdoor activity with strict social distancing requirements

DO YOU KNOW OF A MEMBER WHO NEEDS HELP?

During this unprecedented time for not only our Lodge, but the entire world, many people are focused on their own health and safety. Do you know of a secluded member of our Lodge who may just need a phone call or who may be at high risk that needs help with groceries? Please reach out to the Secretary so that we as Elks can help our own. Contact Secretary Jan Sullivan by phone (703) 560-2188 (Ext. 2) or by email (secretary@bpoe2188.org).

THE TIME FOR RENEWAL IS NOW!

Thanks to all members who have paid your membership renewal dues. While our Social Quarters and Bar remain closed and we can have no rentals, we depend on our dues to keep our charities financed and the Lodge utilities paid. While some members have expressed the opinion that there is no need to send dues since the Lodge is closed, we depend on those membership dues to keep the Lodge running so we can open again as soon as possible. We realize it may be a hardship for some, but your continual help is appreciated, if you can manage it. We especially wish to continue our charity work in the community during this time of uncertainty and business closings.

The Lodge Office is open for the payment of dues and other Lodge business. We mail membership cards out every day, so send in your dues for the current year at your convenience. If you wish to pay by credit card, leave a message for the Secretary to call you when she is in the office to get the information. As a reminder, once we reopen a current year (2020-2021) membership card will be required for entrance into the member quarters/lounge. So please RENEW NOW!

\$300 AGI DEDUCTION

For the 2020 tax year, filers may claim a \$300 deduction for cash contributions to churches, ministry organization and other charitable organizations.

This applies only to those who take the standard deduction when filing their tax returns. Those who itemize their deductions are not able to claim additional amount. There is some question as to the term of the provision, but it likely applies only to 2020 filing year (returns filed in 2021).

The \$300 deduction may seem like a relatively small amount, but it is an "above-the-line" deduction, meaning a taxpayer may subtract the amount from gross income to arrive at a lower "adjusted gross income" for the tax year.



If you need to see me during the weekday, please call me at (703) 560-2188 (ext. 2) to schedule a meeting.

LODGE OF SORROWS



PER Robert M. Goolrick (passed away April 17, 2020)

"To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die." (Thomas Campbell)

SICKNESS & DISTRESS

➤ *Eric Deaton is in rehab care*

We have not heard of any members contracting the COVID-19 virus. If you know of any of our members needing assistance, please contact the Lodge Secretary.

INITIATION

Due to the COVID-19 virus, we are not holding Lodge meetings, however, membership applications will be processed as much as possible. While we will be unable to hold in-person Orientation or Initiation until we are permitted to reopen, we may plan a virtual meeting for that purpose. Watch for an eblast for the latest updates.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

All members are invited to attend our Membership Meetings held the 2d and 4th Tuesday of each month. We plan to begin holding virtual meetings on our usual night, May 12, at 7:30 p.m., so watch for the eblast on how to do join it.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

USO: Michael Moscovis, PER Rose Thiebaut

General: Louise Christie, James Nefflen, Jim Shepherd, John Arnold, Ron Murphy, William Hilton, Mac Morris, Darlene Henderson, Donald Henderson -- *Thanks to each of you for your generosity in supporting our charities!*

Building Fund Donors

Gerard Fahy, Rudolph Gierich Jr., Darlene Henderson, PER Donald Henderson, Chris Kammler, Mac Morris, Paneet Narayan, Arthur Yowell -- **THANKS TO ALL!**

GUIDELINES FOR LODGE E-BLASTS (ELECTRONIC NEWS FLASHES)

In order to simplify sending notices to our members online concerning Club and Lodge events, and to end confusion from misinformation being sent, we have put the following procedures in place: (1) One person per event should be designated as the “spokesperson” and that person should contact the Secretary of the Lodge (Jan Sullivan) concerning the eblast, with a copy to Rose Thiebaut; (2) The request needs to be written out completely and accurately and then sent to the Secretary as soon as the event is scheduled and marked on the Lodge calendar, and the details are in place; (3) The Secretary (or Rose Thiebaut in Jan’s absence) will respond to the spokesperson that the message has been received. If there is no response within a 24-hour period, please call; (4) The Secretary and her press team will be the only ones responsible for getting the message out. The event organizers are responsible for coordinating with the Exalted Ruler, the Club Manager, and the House and Entertainment Committees concerning staffing, food, times, etc.; and (5) If there is a change, the Secretary should be notified as quickly as possible with the new details.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Steve Thiebaut, Chairman)



With Coronavirus (COVID-19) changing the way we conduct business and greatly impacting our everyday lives, I wanted to take this time to let you know that the Board and Lodge Officers are committed to the safety and well-being of all Lodge Members and Club Staff and are working to ensure actions taken are in the best interest of the Lodge. We are grateful for the membership’s support during this time as we all face this unprecedented challenge together. On a positive note, the Board has been very active while the Lodge has been closed for business facilitating the long-needed renovation of the downstairs men’s room and will be starting the installation of new flooring in the Lounge and Bar area with work expected to be completed the first week of May. As we go forward, the Board will be sure to keep the membership updated on the COVID-19 situation, and know that we always value your questions, ideas and feedback. Hope to see everyone back at the Lodge in the near future.

[PER Steven Thiebaut, Chairman of the Board (2020-2021)]

Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge #2188 Supports USO At Reagan National Airport



Our Lodge continues to support traveling military, veterans and their families at the USO Center at Reagan National Airport with hearty frozen sandwiches and snacks. In February, USO Reagan moved into a newly renovated and larger space located just around the corner from its former location, and it will provide larger, more defined space for the various areas (i.e., the kitchen,

eating area, the technology area, the TV/media area, and even a kid’s nook). The supply/storage space will also include another freezer that we hope will allow our Lodge to bring a larger number of food supplies, allowing for less visits per month by our volunteers.

GOLF UPDATE (Ron Murphy, Chairperson – bettyron.50@gmail.com)



Thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to cancel the first four events on our golf schedule -- Bristow Manor (6 April), Old Hickory (20 April), Prince William (4 May) and Forest Greens (18 May). However, we do hope to play three times in June: Hidden Creek on the 1st, Bull Run on the 15th and 1757 on the 29th. Hopefully, the coronavirus will be a bad memory at that point. All will have 0900 shotgun starts. Golf Association members will receive a reminder email a week prior to the event with pertinent instructions. Basically, they will need to respond by the Thursday preceding the Monday event with the required information. Other Elks who want to play, but are not Association members, should contact Ron Murphy at bettyron.50@gmail.com or by calling 703 866-4403 by that Thursday. We also plan to play twice in July, Pleasant Valley on the 13th and Heritage Hunt on the 27th. Copies of the complete 2020 schedule are available from Ron Murphy at the address and phone number provided above. Membership Applications can be obtained from him, too.



ARLINGTON-FAIRFAX ELKS LODGE #2188
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL MEMBERS WITH BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." - C.S. Lewis

hope your birthday
is as awesome
as you are!



ATTENTION: The deadline for submitting articles for THE ELKS HORN is the 15th of each month.

NEWS FLASHES: Do we have your current email address? Also, in order to receive the important **News Flashes** or the monthly **Elks Horn** by email, you must contact the Lodge Secretary to be included on the email distribution list.

DID YOU KNOW? If you are over the age of 65 and have been a member of the Elks for 30 years or more, you qualify for **Life Membership**. If you do qualify, please contact the Lodge Secretary to request Life Membership. **It is not done automatically** so you must first submit your request to the Lodge Secretary, who will then bring your request before a Lodge meeting for approval by the membership. Upon approval, you will be notified by the Lodge Secretary.



OUR MISSION STATEMENT is to inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization; and to provide for its government. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that "Elks Care and Elks Share."

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