



SUMMER 2015

Ron Dickson Sworn in as NCSEA President for the 2015-2016 Year



The North Carolina State Elks Association held its annual meeting in the city of Wilmington on May 2nd at which time Ron Dickson of the Greensboro Lodge was sworn in as President for the 2015-2016 year. Over 300 Elks and guests attended the weekend convention at the Hilton Riverside to enjoy the fellowship and conduct the business of the Association. We were privileged to have in attendance our State Sponsor PGER Jack Frost and his wife Sharon, the State President from Virginia, Beverly Hamby, and the State President from South Carolina Bob Cher and his wife Sandy.

Outgoing State President Teddy Acton presided over the meeting and was recognized for his service to the Association and presented with a plaque. During the meeting several awards were handed out. Fayetteville Elks Lodge was recognized for finishing 6th in the nation in the Elks National Foundation Per Capita Contest with a total of \$87,209. Several other ENF awards were handed out to membership division winners. Shirley Drake and Lee Littiken were honored as Veteran Volunteers of the Year and presented with a certificate. In the Exalted Ruler of the Year contest held by the PER Association, Tom O'Brien from the Calabash Lodge was announced the winner.

The Thad Eure Distinguished Service Award which is presented annually to a member for loyal, dedicated, and unselfish service to the Order and the North Carolina State Elks Association was presented to Gladys Britt of the Southern Pines Lodge.

Following the business meeting all members and guests enjoyed a buffet luncheon, after which guest speaker Ilario Pantano, Director of North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs thanked the Elks of North Carolina for their dedication to helping Veterans. He also spoke of the need to address the plight of homeless Veterans across our state.

State Presidents Message



Thank you to all North Carolina Elks with a special appreciation to the members of the West Central District for their endorsement allowing me to serve as President of the NCSEA for 2015-2016. I also am very grateful to the Past State Presidents for all their words of encouragement and offers of assistance and advice. Thanks to each of you that accepted the chairmanship of one or more of our NCSEA committees for the 2015-2016 year. I have always been very proud to serve Elksdom for as long as I have been a member. I can assure you that I will serve as President of the NCSEA with a great deal of pride. As all my predecessors have expressed, I too consider this an honor and a true privilege. At this writing, I eagerly look forward to the 151st session of the Grand Lodge being held in Indianapolis this July 5-9. During the opening ceremonies on Sunday, July 5th, I have the distinct honor of carrying the flag of the great state of North Carolina during the parade of flags.

We are all very aware of our declining membership during the past 34 years, so I will not expound very much on that subject here. However, I would like to remind

those in attendance during the Leadership Seminar that was held in Greensboro last February 21st to revisit the presentation that was delivered by Rick Gathen, the Grand Lodge National Membership and Public Relations Manager. Mr. Gathen listed many ideas that could assist in stemming the tide of declining membership. Let us in NC do our part in getting new members and retaining current ones. Our membership quantity is in decline at this moment and it seems to be out of our control, but we can have some impact on the quality of our members. By that, I mean let's take our volunteer effort to a higher level. That will be my theme for the upcoming year- taking our volunteer effort to a higher level. I know that those who are reading this are the ones that volunteer much time already in support of our goals. But, before you say no when you are asked to volunteer, please consider the following. When volunteering at any level to support the programs of our Order, the benefit goes well beyond the intended recipients; that is to say that, you too will benefit from the special feeling of being appreciated. You also will be setting a very positive example that will possibly inspire other members to follow your lead and give of their time. It is my hope that you will take a couple of minutes to actually consider the possible results when it comes to giving of your time. Many of us have been to a veteran's facility in the state and came away feeling better for it. We also have many members who volunteer much time to programs benefiting the youth of our country. I know you come away with a new sense of pride when you take part in the Hoop Shoot program or assist with the scholarship program or the essay contest. Some have visited Camp Carefree during the camping season to witness the joy on the kid's faces, partly because of our efforts. We might never know the true impact of our volunteer efforts but I would wager that it is more than we ever imagined.

Having just returned from our Spring Convention in Wilmington that concluded on Sunday, May 3rd, I can only be encouraged. Much business was discussed and progress was made in various meetings. There were well beyond 200 Elks registered for this convention and including guests, that number was 316 registrants. We welcomed our State Sponsor, PGER Jack Frost and his wife, Sharon. Our guests included Bob Cher, President of the South Carolina Elks Association and his wife, Sandy. Beverly Hamby, President of the Virginia Elks Association was with us for the weekend also. Our guest speaker for the luncheon on Saturday was Ilario Pantano, Director of the NC Department of Veterans Affairs. He delivered an inspiring speech regarding the plight of homeless veterans in our state. Later in the afternoon, much fun was had by those attending the charity auction and shootout. The convention officially closed on Sunday morning, following the PER/guest breakfast meeting. With the Spring Convention being such a success, please think about plans to attend the 2015 Fall Convention to be held in New Bern from October 23-25. We will be at the Doubletree By Hilton which is also a river front location.

In closing my first article, I want to thank our outgoing State President, Teddy Acton and his lovely wife Vicki for all the advice and kindness shown to us during the past months.

Fraternally, Ronald E Dickson

Convention Pictures

Wilmington May 1-3, 2015



PSP Teddy Acton and Elks National Veterans Service Commission Chairman Glenn Autry presenting Shirley Drake with the lady Veteran Volunteer of the Year award.



State Sponsor PGER Jack Frost swearing in the NCSEA and Charitable Trust Officers for the 2015-2016 year

Newly installed President Ron Dickson presenting outgoing President Teddy Acton with a plaque in recognition of his year of service to the NCSEA



Virginia Elks President Beverly Hamby, NC PSP Teddy Acton and South Carolina Elks President Bob Cher.

Convention Pictures



Gladys Britt receiving the Thad Eure Distinguished Service Award.

Pictured L-R, PGER Jack Frost, Gladys Britt, outgoing State President Teddy Acton, and Trustee Chairman Billy Hood.

Lee Littiken (L) receiving a certificate honoring his selection as male Veteran Volunteer of the Year from Elks National Veterans Service Commission Chairman Glenn Autry and PSP Teddy Acton



State President Ron Dickson receiving a plaque from Youth Activities chairperson Shari Driscoll to honor his 13 years as Hoop Shoot Director.



Guest speaker Ilario Pantano, Director of North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs, addressing the membership and guests





State Hoop Shoot Winners Compete in Regional Contest

The six North Carolina Hoop Shoot winners competed in the Regional finals in Frederick MD on March 14th for an opportunity to represent North Carolina at the National Hoop Shoot contest in Springfield, MA in April. Ron Dickson, State Hoop Shoot Chairman, who is in his final year as chairman, was ecstatic to have four of our young champions win their division and will have that opportunity. Brianna Lewis representing North Wilkesboro, won the girls 12-13, Brooklyn Gammons representing Mt. Airy won the girls 8-9, Christopher Abrams representing Wilson won the boys 8-9, and Chance Carter representing Winston Salem won the boys 12-13.



Pictured above L-R, front row, Brianna Lewis (N. Wilkesboro), Christena Rhone (Morganton), Brooklyn Gammons (Mt. Airy), Christopher Abrams (Wilson), Breon Pass (Reidsville), Chance Carter (Winston Salem), back row, Paul Helzel, PGER, Linda Dickson, NC HoopShoot Chairman Ron Dickson, Vickie Acton, and NCSEA President Teddy Acton.

Elizabeth City Elks Donate Chairs to Benjamin House

Elizabeth City Exalted Ruler David King (R) and Tim Mooney along with other Lodge Members work to put together office chairs the Lodge purchased for Benjamin House, a home for adults with mental and developmental challenges. This project which was funded through a Gratitude Grant from the Elks National Foundation provided much needed furniture for Benjamin House.



MEDAL OF VALOR



As part of your Lodge Veterans Program, have you looked for a way to appropriately recognize the death of a local service member who has made the ultimate sacrifice on the field of battle in Iraq or Afghanistan? Please consider the ENVSC Medal of Valor Program. The Medal of Valor can be presented by your Lodge to the family of a fallen hero. It is intended to honor the memory of those who lost their lives in the voluntary defense of our country.

The Medal of Valor is available from the Elks National Veterans Service Commission at a modest price of \$8.00, which includes shipping. It is attractive, nicely made, comes with a presentation case and can be engraved. It bears the legends "Operation Enduring Freedom" and "Operation Iraqi Freedom", and the message "Presented by the Grand Lodge of the B. P. O. Elks to the family of (*Engraved Name*)".

Iraq and Afghanistan continue to be hotly contested battlefields. We pray no more lives will be lost in those venues. However, until conflict ends, the Order of Elks will do all it can to honor those men and women who voluntarily defend our freedom. The Medal of Honor beautifully expresses this to the families of those who will not return.

The Medal of Valor can be easily and quickly ordered from the Elks National Veterans Service Commission at Vets@Elks.org, or by calling the Chicago office at (773)755-4736.

NCSEA FALL CONVENTION NEW BERN

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend the Fall Convention of the North Carolina State Elks Convention in historic New Bern, October 23-25 at the Double Tree by Hilton located on the river front. The hotel is easy walking distance to downtown with its many shops and restaurants.

The highlight of the meeting will be the official visit of our Grand Exalted Ruler Ron Hicks and our First Lady Nancy.

Reservation forms are available at ncelks.org.

Get your reservation in early as there is a limited number of rooms at this facility. We look forward to seeing you there.



Re-Creation Entertains Veterans



Re-Creation USA visited the NC Veterans Home in Fayetteville on March 2nd to entertain the residents. Called "America's Ambassadors to Hospitalized Veterans" Re-Creation put on a variety show that was spectacular and enthralled the Veterans and their families.

Re-Creation has been providing live entertainment to VA Medical Centers and Veterans since 1983, with more than 300 shows annually in all 50 States.



Burlington Lodge Participates in Chocolate Festival

Members of the Burlington Lodge participated in the fifth annual Cheers for Chocolate Festival at Holly Hill Mall & Business Center.

The festival brought in about 2,300 people. There were 37 chocolatiers from local restaurants, churches, charities and even medical practices.

Lodge members made the yummy chocolate treats, and manned the VERY busy booth!



Pictured (left to right): Betty Hubschman, Peter Breidenbach, Eileen Dreizler, Lloyd Dosser, Gloria Smith, Gloria Dosser. Not pictured: Mike Hubschman, Joan Breidenbach, Brenda Tilley.

Hickory Lodge Donates \$2000 To Foothills Stand Down

The Hickory Elks Lodge #1654 Veterans Committee recently presented the Foothills Stand Down with a donation of \$2000. The date for this year's event was Friday, April 24th and was held again at the American Legion Facility on Highway 70. This event serves Veterans, especially the homeless, from 12 surrounding counties by providing many valuable services including transportation, food, dental, medical, vision, employment opportunities, free tax preparation, VA benefits, haircuts, showers, clothing, counseling, etc. and even veterinary services for those who bring their pets. Last year over 250 Veterans were served. Many organizations from the county and state level are involved in the months of planning and coordinating necessary to host an event of this size. Many other organizations set up vendor booths to provide other products and services that might be needed.



Gavel of leadership passed by Gastonia Elks Lodge



Past Exalted Ruler Dan Craig passed the gavel, symbol of authority, to new Exalted Ruler Rachel Falls Monday evening, March 16 when members of Gastonia Elks Lodge 1634 installed their first lady Exalted Ruler. Falls was a longtime member of the Ladies Auxiliary until she was initiated as a member of Gastonia Elks Lodge 1634 in March 2012. Last year Rachel served as Treasurer of the Lodge.

Falls retired from Matthews-Belk Company after 41 years where she worked in several departments, including Ladies Lingerie as Manager. Her last position was Buyer for the Lingerie Department. Her late husband, Ted Falls, was serving his second term as Exalted Ruler of the Gastonia Lodge when he died suddenly in April, 1993.



Calabash Elks Kazoo Band Marches in St. Patrick's Day Parade

The Calabash Elks Lodge marching kazoo band participated in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in North Myrtle Beach. Several members braved the dreary weather to march the parade route which was broadcast live on local TV.

Following the parade, members gathered at the Lodge for an afternoon of fellowship and live Irish music.



Raleigh Elks Hold Court of Honor Ceremony for Eagle Scout



Raleigh Elks lodge 735 hosted a Court of Honor ceremony for the occasion of Piersson Nuttall's Eagle Scout Award Presentation. Piersson is the 63rd Scout from Troop 104 to have earned the rank of Eagle Scout. The Award Presentation was made on March 10th at Raleigh Lodge 735 located in Raleigh North Carolina.

Scout Master and Raleigh Elks 735 lodge member John Bardin presented the Award. Piersson's parents John and Amy Nuttall were present for the Award.

Raleigh Elks Lodge 735 has been sponsoring Boy Scout's in the local Raleigh Area for many years. Special thanks to Raleigh Elks Lodge 735 member John Allman who helps coordinates these activities for the Raleigh Lodge.

Calabash Elks Donate to Wounded Warriors



Pictured above (L to R) LtCol Leland Suttee, USMC, Commanding Officer, Wounded Warrior Battalion East, Camp LeJeune, NC, Gloria Sammon, Member, Calabash Elks Veteran's Affairs Committee, and Austin Sammon, Chairman, Calabash Elks Veteran's Affairs Committee.

The Marine Corps presented the Calabash Veterans Affairs Committee with a Certificate of Appreciation of the support the VAC has provided to them.



The Veteran's Affairs Committee (VAC) of the Calabash Elks Lodge donated Wal-Mart Gift Cards, and presented cases of Candy Bars from the local Walgreen's Drug Store, to the Wounded Warrior Battalion East, located at Camp LeJeune in Jacksonville, NC. The VAC's most recent visit brings the donation total for this year to \$1,500.00 in Wal-Mart Gift Cards, and over 15 cases of Candy Bars.

Also included with this donation were some special, "Veteran's Appreciation" Blankets. These blankets, in which the Elks Logo and the words, "Calabash Elks Veteran's Affairs Committee," are permanently woven into the fabric of a colorful, full-sized, commemorative blanket, is especially appreciated by, and useful to, those wounded veterans confined to a wheel chair or bed.

The Gift Cards are especially valuable to the Battalion, because they allow the Headquarters to purchase necessities such as Gasoline, some Food, and other Operational Items for the unit which are not funded through normal appropriations, and they would otherwise not be able to obtain. The Candy Bars will be distributed to the Wounded Marines, as well as to other patients, confined to the base's Naval Hospital.

Calabash Bingo Donates to Local Charities

The BINGO Committee of the Calabash Elks Lodge ended their fiscal year by donating \$900.00 to 3 local charities: The Calabash Volunteer EMS; Hope Harbor Home, a home for Battered women; and The Lower Cape Fear Hospice. Each of the recipients were presented with a check for \$300.00.

Pictured (L to R): Frank Blue, Retiring Chairman of the BINGO Committee, Diana Rettig, Chairwoman of the BINGO Committee; Haylie Long, Community Outreach Coordinator, Lower Cape Fear Hospice, Bolivia, NC; Nicholas Bowen, Operations Manager, Calabash Volunteer EMS, Calabash, NC; Lynn Carlson, Executive Director, Hope Harbor Home, Brunswick County, NC; and Tom O'Brien, Exalted Ruler for 2014-2015.



HENDERSONVILLE ELKS SUPPORT LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS

On Sunday, March 8, 2015, John Boyd, SDGER, and the Hendersonville Elks Past Exalted Rulers Association were proud to sponsor a free spaghetti dinner for all Elks and individuals from within the community who were present to honor Henderson County's public safety officers: NC Highway Patrol; Henderson County Sheriff's Department; Hendersonville Police Department; Laurel Park Police Department; Fletcher Police Department; Henderson County Emergency Services; Henderson County EMS; Henderson County Rescue Squad; Hendersonville Fire Department; Dana Volunteer Fire/Rescue; Blue Ridge Fire/Rescue; Bat Cave Fire/Rescue; Etowah-Horse Shoe Fire/Rescue; Gerton Volunteer Fire/Rescue; Mills River Fire/Rescue; Saluda Fire/Rescue; Valley Hill Fire/Rescue; and Mountain Home Fire/Rescue.

Prior to the awards presentation, the Lodge was honored to have Henderson County's Sheriff

give a brief speech on law enforcement in the community.

Over the past several years, the Hendersonville Elks Lodge has recognized that emergency response teams nationwide have done a fantastic job protecting and serving their communities. The recognition given by our Lodge on March 8th was only a small but significant effort to identify and thank each of the twenty-two local public safety personnel with a framed certificate of appreciation.

This was a great event and its success was due totally to volunteers from within the Hendersonville Lodge, which included PER members as well as our ladies group, the DOES. John Boyd, President of #1616's PER Association, stated that they will be planning similar events recognizing outstanding Henderson County individuals and organizations in the future.



Front Row: (L-R) Brian Helton, Alan Bonanno, Pete Laite, Daniel Gamez, Daniel Barale, John Carrico and Carolyn Alley

Second Row: (L-R) Toby Linville, Christian Miller, Mathew Hossley, Mark Stepp, Alan Shaver, John Boyd, SDGER, Steve Freeman, Jonah Fore, Brandon Munsey, Shane Brady, Matt Brackett, and Bobby Dotson

Calabash Lodge Hosts Veterans for Lunch

Calabash Lodge recently hosted a “Couples Veterans Appreciation Luncheon” and award ceremony for couples of which one of the spouses was a Veteran or Active Duty Military.

Twenty one veterans, and their spouses were served a full-course lunch served by volunteers of the Calabash Elks VAC. Members of the Lodge’s Ladies Auxiliary provided homemade desserts. The purpose of the event was to recognize and show appreciation for, not only the Veteran or Military person in the family, but the Spouse as well. In attendance were Veterans from WW II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf War. Funding for the event was made possible, by a “Freedom Grant” from the Elks National Foundation.

Additionally, each Veteran/Military Member who attended the luncheon was awarded a Veteran’s Appreciation” Blanket. These blankets, in which the Elks Logo and the words, “Calabash Elks Veteran’s Affairs Committee,” are permanently woven into the fabric of a colorful, full-sized, commemorative blanket, are especially appreciated by, and useful to, those wounded and aged veterans.



Pictured Standing is Joyce Dorsa, member of the Calabash Elks Veteran’s Affairs Committee along with Larry and Diana Eldridge attendees at the VAC’s Veterans Appreciation Luncheon and Award Ceremony. Larry holds his gift of an Appreciation Blanket. The text and Elks Logo on another full-sized blanket can be seen hung in the background on display.

Raleigh Lodge Sponsors Parent Child Military Ball



On April 17th the Raleigh Elks Lodge Army of Hope Program cosponsored a parent and child Military Ball. This event was to recognize April as the month of the military child. In cooperation with the North Carolina National Guard family services and the Raleigh chapter of the USO. Jim Pendergast and several other lodge members helped coordinate this event with the Army of Hope as the lodge provided the facility and buffet with the freedom grant. This allowed military members to bond and allow dependents to know they are important as well.

In other news; On April 16, Raleigh members Alice Morse, Angie Edwards, Patrick Cottrell and Shane Hakes visited Durham Veterans Hospital to host a monthly bingo event with the patients.

In December Raleigh Elks sent Christmas gifts to the women at the Kingston Veterans Home and several lodge members visited the Veterans Home in Fayetteville to deliver gifts.

Each December for the last several years Raleigh Elks Lodge 735 has participated with the USO in Raleigh NC in our annual Angel Tree ceremony. This year the Raleigh lodge members donated Christmas gifts to 30+ deserving families of our soldiers who are serving overseas.

Calabash Mayor Signs Youth Week Proclamation



Calabash Mayor, Mary Louise Knight signing a proclamation declaring the week of May 1 - 7, 2015 Youth Week in the Town of Calabash. The Calabash Elks will celebrate Youth Week by taking a group of youngsters from the Waccamaw Boys and Girls Home to a Myrtle Beach Pelicans ballgame.

Pictured is Mayor Mary Louise Knight and Exalted Ruler Malcolm Jaggard.

Raleigh Lodge Hosts Eagle Scout Court of Honor



Raleigh Elks lodge 735 hosted a Court of Honor ceremony for the occasion of Piersson Nuttall's Eagle Scout Award Presentation. Piersson is the 63rd Scout from Troop 104 to have earned the rank of Eagle Scout. The Award Presentation was made on March 10th at the Raleigh Lodge. Scout Master and Raleigh lodge member John Bardin presented the Award.

Raleigh Elks Lodge 735 has been sponsoring Boy Scout's in the local Raleigh Area for many years. Special thanks to Raleigh Elks member John Allman who helps coordinates these activities for the Raleigh Lodge.



Pictured L-R: Parents John & Amy Nuttall, Piersson Nuttall, and John Bardin

Raleigh Elks Help Troops Stationed in Guantanamo Bay

At the suggestion of Member Angie Edwards, the Raleigh Elks Lodge donated \$300.00 to the 324th Military Police Battalion stationed in Guantanamo Bay.

The purpose of the donation was so the troops could purchase care packages with the Skin-So-Soft Bath Oil products to help protect their personnel while on Guard Duty.

The troops had stated that the insects are so bad when they are standing watch that they have to wear Eye Goggles and Ear Plugs to protect themselves from the insects.

These lotions are not standard military gear and are not available locally in Guantanamo and may provide a little relief for our troops.

Angie was contacted by a relative that works in this Guard Unit to see if someone could help.

Raleigh Elks Lodge 735 stepped up to this Challenge !!!

We are Glad to Support Our Troops no matter what their request may be !!!

Southern Pines Elks Assist Visually Impaired Students

The Southern Pines Elks Lodge along with the Seven Lakes Lions Club and the Public Education Foundation donated a device to help teachers work with visually impaired students. The new equipment which prints words in text format and in braille by combining an embosser with inkjet capabilities was donated to Moore County Schools. Teacher Betty Brown who prepares lessons for 23 visually impaired students in 14 schools says she can spend more time working directly with students instead of on paperwork preparation. The Souther Pines Elks donated \$4700. Towards the \$7700. Cost of the printer.

Burlington Lodge Honors Americanism Essay Winners

Congratulations to the entire Bilodeau family! Ryan Bilodeau, Nathan Bilodeau, and Morgan Bilodeau won awards at both our Lodge level and State level for their entries in the Americanism Essay Contest. Not pictured: Cooper Morgan and his family, who were unable to attend.



Brotherly Love

ELKS TAKE VETS ON FISHING TRIP



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Elizabeth City Elks Lodge hosted a group of military veterans to go fishing at Jennette's Pier on the Outer Banks. The event showed appreciation for the sacrifice and service made to our country. The 27 men and women caught 40-50 skates and dozens of puffer fish. There were seven Elizabeth City Elks on hand to support this group. The trip was made possible by the Elks National Veterans Service Commission Freedom Grant.

The Communications Committee hopes you have enjoyed this edition of the NCSEA Newsletter. Should you have any comments or suggestions please forward them to me, Ashley Buckwell, at ashbuc@atmc.net or Teddy Acton at tacton@atmc.net

I encourage each Lodge to forward articles of their charitable endeavors, and each NCSEA Committee Chairman to forward articles of interest to the membership to be published in the next issue.

