



**August September
2021**



**NCSEA will host GER Keith Mills & First Lady Amy
at Fall Meeting in Atlantic Beach**

If you haven't already made plans to spend Halloween weekend in Atlantic Beach there is still time to register for the Fall Meeting of the NCSEA. We are honored to have Grand Exalted Ruler Keith Mills and his lovely wife Amy as our special guests for the weekend. This is a wonderful time of year to visit the Crystal Coast and enjoy the beach, fishing, local seafood, and spending time relaxing with Elks from across the state.

Registration forms are available at ncelks.org

See you there!!!



A Message from State President Frank Brady

The lodges of North Carolina are having a great year in membership growth. Membership is up with 837 new members for a grand total of 9,996; and 188 pending candidates as of the end of September.

Sandy and I have been traveling across the State to attend District Deputy clinics, I must say the lodges are all charged up to be meeting in person. The friendship we have for each other is remarkable. In August we traveled to Camp Carefree and had a wonderful day with Elks and alumni of Camp Carefree. The North Carolina Elks cooked hamburgers, hotdogs and all the fixings for over a hundred plus staff. The strength of this organization is its ability to attract past campers in helping current children. This camp might not exist but for the financial help given by the North Carolina State Elks Charitable TRUST. Past State Presidents, current State President, President-Elect and Camp Carefree Board members were present at this event.

The District Deputy Clinics in August were a success. We have great leaders in Steve Tyler - East; Justin Schaeffer - East Central; Mark Alderman - West Central; and Carole Anderson - West. Steve Tyler, as a side bar, discussed at length the law suit involving a lodge in his district and the issue of over-pouring. This lodge won because they had great documents and eye witnesses on the day in question. The do's and don't's were covered during the discussion to protect the lodges, servers and members.

I was invited to attend Goldsboro Lodge's Veterans Freedom Fest Celebration on September 17th-18th. To my surprise the event was supported by the community and companies within Goldsboro. A wall of American Flags representing the young men and women from Goldsboro, who gave their lives to protect this great country, was on display. The traveling Viet Nam Wall was also on display; and with only 30% of the names inscribed, it was still a massive wall.

The North Carolina Vice Presidents have begun their Traveling Gavel visits to each lodge. Please treat them with respect and afford them the time to address your members. Each Vice President is responsible for the hospitality rooms at our State conventions, so extend them your helping hands. I know they will appreciate you volunteering.

The South Carolina Elks Association Summer Convention was held in Myrtle Beach, SC, on September 19th- 22nd, 2021; and Sandy and I received a warm welcome from State President Kenneth A. Martin and First Lady Kaye Martin. I attended all of their business sessions; several social events; and, of course, played golf.

The last item on my schedule for September was to visit Calabash Elks Lodge on the 23rd. Robert (Shorty) Dennany, Exalted Ruler, invited me to witness the initiations of thirteen new members. The officers were dressed in black tuxedos and gave a fine ritual performance. After addressing the members and stressing the need to continue community projects, I spoke to each new member on involving themselves in the Lodge's volunteer needs.

Just a reminder that the North Carolina State Elks Fall Convention will be held in Atlantic Beach on October 29th -31st. The Parade of Lodges will be held at the Session on Saturday, the 30th.



Frank with Calabash ER Shorty Dennany and 13 newly initiated Elks



A Message From Grand Exalted Ruler Keith Mills

Community projects give back—and lure new Members



How are you doing with your Lodge Community Projects? Did you know that you can enter your Lodge into the Community Project Contest offered by the Grand Lodge Activities Committee? Visit the Grand Lodge Activities Committee on elks.org to see what is needed to get your Lodge some additional recognition. If you have done some projects, fantastic. If not, it is not too late to begin now. This is a great way for your membership to get involved outside the Lodge. Who knows, it may interest new Members for your Lodge. October 23-31 is Red Ribbon Week. This is our nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program, reaching millions of Americans every year. The Federal Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA, and others plan activities throughout the month. Contact local law enforcement and community organizations to see if your Lodge can get involved. In addition, encourage your Members to wear red ribbons for the month during their daily routine. Pass out red ribbons to your schools, sponsor a red ribbon activity, submit public service announcements supporting your Red Ribbon program to local media. Also, during this time, most DEA agencies sponsor a prescription Drug Take Back Day. Ask a local law enforcement agency if your Lodge can volunteer to help in any way. Now is the time for your six-month review of your Lodge operations. Lodge Secretaries need to give their bi-annual report on the activities of their office to the membership. Exalted Rulers, if you have not done so, you need to submit to the Lodge floor your report on the Grand Lodge Session. Auditing and Accounting Committees also need to review the Lodge financials and report to the Lodge Members. Finally, make revisions (if necessary) to your annual budgets to get a clearer financial picture of your Lodge and to make decisions moving forward. Keeping your Lodge fiscally strong will ensure you continue "Meeting the Challenge." In addition to other activities, get started on the American Essay contest at your local schools. The deadline for submission is in mid-December. Information for the essay contest is located in the Grand Lodge Americanism Manual found on the Elks website. Have your Americanism chairperson examine the manual—There are great programs for your Lodge and community, and it provides ways to interact with others outside the Lodge, promote our programs, and find prospective new Members. Finally, let us not forget Halloween at the end of the month. Think about planning an event for kids or working with another entity to provide a safe and fun opportunity for our youth.

NCSEA Announces 2022 Nursing Scholarship Competition

Applications for the 2022 Nursing Scholarship Competition are now available online at ncelks.org. There are 10 scholarships available, please download the application from the website and distribute to you local public and private high schools. Currently there is a great demand for nursing students for this demanding and rewarding career.

Applications must be submitted to the local Lodge on or before December 8, 2021, and after verification must be submitted to the State Association Scholarship Chairman, Bruce Kinaman by January 8, 2022.



Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee Sets Parameters for Successful Lodge and State Websites

The Fraternal Committee wants your Local Lodge website as well as your State Association website to exemplify the true spirit of Elkdom. Your website should always be up-to-date, be a great source of information for your Members, and cover all Grand Lodge programs. You may not necessarily be ready to enter in a website contest, but we all should want to continue to improve our websites, so they are the top go-to resource for Members. The best websites should have these attributes, and State and Local Lodge contests are graded on the same criteria with points awarded in each area.

Content: This should contain up-to date news and information along with details about all programs. Some news is timeless, but some information needs to be fresh.

Layout: There should be a menu or table of contents. Various committees or departments should be easily accessible.

Design: Special presentation methods such as borders, shading, and color are a plus.

Graphics: Pop up windows and scrolling messages highlighting important How to win an Elks website contest announcements help. Photographs and graphics keep users' interest.

Effectiveness in telling the Elks story: The website should prove to be useful to Members. It should also successfully tell the Elks' story to non-Members.

While it is too late to enter this years State Website Contest, now is a good time to look at your website and or Facebook page and see if it meets the above criteria and be ready for next years contest.

News From the Lodges

Shallotte Elks Uses Grant to Purchase Locating Devices

The Shallotte Elks Lodge donated \$2250.00 from their Beacon Grant to the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department for locating devices to be given to dementia patients. If they should walk away from their resident, they can be found easier.



Pictured left to right Sam Johnston Esteem Lecturing Knight, Exalted Ruler Sue Berardi, Deputy James Geiger, 1st. Sgt T.K. Nowell, Paul Salerno Lodge Trustee.

Winston Salem Lodge Holds Flag Retirement Ceremony

Winston Salem Lodge holds Flag Day Ceremony and Flag Retirement Ceremony with Veteran's Committee Flag honor guards and 35 attendees for memorial service.



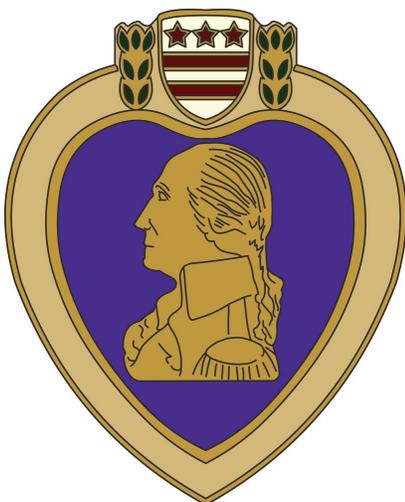
Goldsboro Elks and Guests Attend Purple Heart Banquet

Members of the Goldsboro Elks Lodge recently attended our county's 9th Annual Purple Heart Banquet. The banquet honors the service and sacrifices of Purple Heart recipients and Gold Star families living right here in our community. Joining us as our guests at the banquet, were the military Veterans residing in housing provided by NuHome Community Center, the recipient of our 2021 Freedom Grant.



Pictured left are our guests at the banquet: William Moore, Troy Brinson, Andre Williamson, Frank Davis, and JoBeth Grazyck

Pictured right are: Elks member Eric Ostendorf, Exalted Ruler Alex Wingate, and Veteran and our guest Andre Williamson



Calabash Elks Donate to Scouts for SCUBA Certification

The Calabash Lodge used its Gratitude Grant plus some Lodge funds to provide Scout Troop 201 from Sunset Beach with the necessary funds for the Troop to get their SCUBA certification. After classroom work and swimming pool training, the Troop headed offshore for a 60' dive.



Pictured are some of the Scouts getting their certification and from L-R Lecturing Knight Gene Bellando, Exalted Ruler Shorty Dennany, Scoutmaster Pat Connick, and ENF Chairperson Juanita Adams.

Oak Island Elks Donate to Oak Island Veterans Park Garden

Oak Island Elks donated \$400 to the OKI Veterans Park Garden refurbishment efforts. The garden is maintained by the OKI Beautification Club. It was destroyed by a hurricane in 2020 but now, thanks to the efforts of vvv-volunteers, it looks great!

Pictured L to R; Darlene Lewis, OKI ELKS 2769 Veterans Team; Sue Stebbins, OKI Beautification Club, Steve Martin, OKI ELKS 2769 Veterans Team, Ed Drzewiecki, OKI ELKS 2769 Veterans Team.



High Point Elks Donate to Heroes Center Veteran Support Camp

The High Point Lodge used their Beacon Grant to give a \$2,500 donation to the Heroes Center Veteran Support Camp. This organization helps young veterans transition to civilian life.

Pictured are left to right: Vic Jones, Lodge member and Chairman of the Heroes Center and Richard Golden, Leading Knight.



Shallotte Elks Donate to Community In Schools Program



The Shallotte Elks Lodge donated \$350.00 from their Gratitude Grant to Brunswick County Community In Schools program. C.I.S is an after school program for between 60 and 70 children.

Pictured from left to right: Esquire Robert Kordiak, C.I.S. worker Tracy Jones, Exalted Ruler Sue Berardi, Lodge Secretary Carolyn Garamone.

High Point Elks Donate Grant to High Point Food Alliance



The High Point Lodge used their Gratitude and Charitable Trust Grants to present a check for \$3,500 to the High Point Food Alliance. This organization helps people move from a charity model to self sufficiency for their food needs.

Pictured left to right are Exalted Ruler Phil Driscoll and several members of the High Point Food Alliance staff.

High Point Lodge Donates to Tiny House Community For Homeless Vets



The High Point Lodge used part of their Beacon Grant to give a \$1,000 donation to The Tiny House Community. This non-profit builds tiny houses and our grant will go specifically to build a house for a homeless Veteran in our local community.

Pictured are Past State President, Shari Driscoll and Tiny House Director, Scott Jones.

High Point Lodge Holds Food Drive

The High Point Elks held a food drive for a local organization that has an after school program and a food pantry. D-UP's primary goal is to teach healthier eating and increase activity habits to children in our local community. We also provided them with our Drug Awareness coloring books and crayons.



Pictured is PSP Shari Driscoll, D-UP President Jakki Davis, D-UP coordinator Keyshawn Haith, and Leading Knight Richard Golden.

Pictured is PSP Shari Driscoll, D-UP coordinator Keyshawn Haith, Leading Knight Richard Golden with Drug Awareness comic books.



Shallotte Lodge Donates to Brunswick County Toy Run



The Shallotte Elks Lodge donated \$500.00 to The Brunswick County Toy Run from their Gratitude Grant. The Toy Run hopes to have 200 children participating in this year event, each child will have \$150.00 to spend, of which at least half has to go towards clothes and the other half can be spent on toys.

Pictured from left to right: Lodge Esquire Robert Kordiak, Toy Run Co-Chair person Shawwna Munna, and Exalted Ruler Sue Berardi.

Oak Island Elks Donate to Local Charities



Oak Island Elks Lodge recently donated \$500 to the Hope Harbor Home in Oak Island NC. Hope Harbor Home strives to break the cycle of domestic and sexual violence in Brunswick County NC with safe shelter, advocacy and education.

Pictured are Elk Mike Ligon; and Ann Hewitt, director of Hope Harbor Home.

Oak Island Elks Lodge recently donated \$500 to the New Hope Clinic of Brunswick County NC. The mission of the New Hope Clinic is to provide quality medical, dental, and pharmacy services to low income, uninsured Brunswick County adults in a caring, patient centered environment.

Pictured are Elk Vicki LeVesque; Sheila Roberts, New Hope Clinic director; and Elk Mike Ligon.

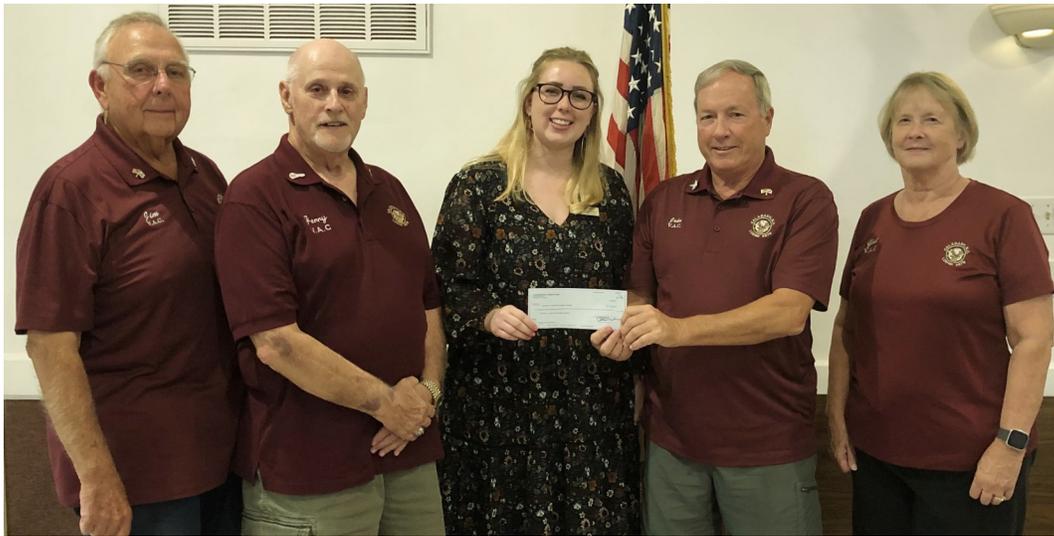


Oak Island Elks Lodge recently donated \$500.00 to Rescue Animals Community Effort Inc. (R.A.C.E.). R.A.C.E. was conceived for the purpose of contracting the services of the county animal shelter and to help companion animals live a quality life in Brunswick county North Carolina.

Pictured are from left to right; Elk Mike Ligon; Cheri McClain, R.A.C.E. Director; Elk Dot Koslowski; and Elk Vicki LesVesque,

Calabash Veterans Committee Uses Grant to Help Homeless Veterans

The Calabash Elks Lodge Veterans Affairs Committee recently donated their \$2,500 Freedom Grant to the SGT Eugene Ashley Memorial Center in Wilmington. SGT Ashley Center provides transitional residence and recovery programs for homeless veterans. The SGT Ashley Center will use the funds to help stock their food pantry, provide cleaning and maintenance supplies, and assist the resident veterans. This brings total donations to the SGT Ashley Center to over \$7,500 since 2017.



Pictured L-R: Member Jim Kozlowski; Jerry Kimble, Veterans Committee Co-Chairman; Liz Carbone, Community Coordinator, Good Shepherd Center; John Corbett, Veterans Committee Co-Chairman; and Member Gail Childers.

**“So long as there are Veterans,
the Benevolent and Protective Order
of Elks
will never forget them”**

Hickory Elks Supported Boy Scout Flag Retirement Ceremony

Boy Scouts Troop 1 of Hickory performed a U.S. flag retirement ceremony recently with the support of the Hickory Elks Lodge 1654. Elks Lodge members, friends and the Hickory Fire Department provided flags that were no longer fit to fly. Boy Scouts Troop 1 is led by Scoutmaster Brad Lasecki. The young men learned about patriotism, honor and tradition as they properly retired old and distressed flags. Members of the lodge and guests were invited to participate in the tradition of cutting the flag in the proper way before burning it. The Elks Lodge consists of many committees, including Americanism and Youth. This event allowed an opportunity to combine both committees to support youth and also promote an understanding of the nation's traditions.

Lodge member Cary Bowman opened the ceremony with remarks before handing over the event to Eagle Scout Dylan Lasecki as the master of ceremonies. After many flags were properly retired, Americanism Chairperson Tracy Hentschel closed the event by thanking the Boy Scouts, the Hickory Fire Department, guests and lodge members for attending.

Future flag retirement events are already being discussed and, hopefully, this will turn into an annual event.



Oak Island Lodge Uses Grant to Replace Beach Mobility Mat

The Oak Island Elks Lodge and Oak Island Beach Preservation Society, are pleased to announce the mobility mat has been replaced at the Womble Street beach access beside the Oak Island Pier. The previous mat donated by BPSI was damaged during the cleanup and repair work after Hurricane Isaias. The new mat was purchased using a Gratitude Grant from the Elks National Foundation, Inc. The Elks grant committee saw a need to replace the mat based on requests from residents and visitors looking for accessible beach access. BPSI coordinated with the vendor and the town to purchase and install the new mat. The original damaged mat has been rebound by BPSI and the original vendor, and pieces are now in place in other beach access locations. Mats normally remain in place unless major storms are anticipated, in which case they are removed and stored by the Oak Island Department of Public Works.



Pictured from left: Martha Slimick, BPSI; Linden Hill and Glenda Dennis, Elks; and Rosanne Fortner, BPSI.

Shallotte Elks Donate to The Lords Food Pantry

Shallotte Elks Lodge #2854 donated \$1500.00, from their Beacon Grant, to South Brunswick Interchurch Council The Lords Food Pantry. The Lords Food Pantry distributes meals to an average of 350 people every Saturday.

Pictured front row left to right John O'Lear, Leading Knight; Sue Berardi, Exalted Ruler; Mary Pritchard, Food Pantry Coordinator; Paul Salerno, Trustee; Mike Clayton, President SBIC. Back Row Sam Johnston, Loyal Knight; Robert Kordiak, Esquire.



Fayetteville Lodge Supported Brotherhood Riders on Journey to Ground Zero

The Fayetteville Elks recently supported the 2021 Brotherhood Riders, a non-profit 501(C)(3) public charity, which has raised \$600,000 and consists of law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel who ride bicycles to honor those who have died in the line of duty. The group completed an overnight stop at Elks Lodge #1081 on their journey from Florida to Ground Zero, New Year City. Lodge 1081 supported 40 riders and 15 support personnel, feeding them local BBQ and our member owned R Burgers. Fayetteville Elks turned out to support our brothers and sisters celebrating the memories of the fallen while sharing camaraderie among members and cyclists



Fayetteville Elks Promote Elks Programs at Baseball Game

Fayetteville Elks recently donated time to promote the Elks Hoop Shoot Program at a Fayetteville minor league baseball game. PER and Life Member Dallas Brisson has supported the program for 30+ years, along with spreading the good word on Drug Awareness and the advantages of joining our organization. Trustee Tina Schultz is seen with the Fayetteville Woodpeckers mascot at the Elks table during the game



Oak Island Lodge Holds Membership Drive With Open House

The Oak Island Lodge held their annual end of summer bash, membership drive, and golf cart giveaway on September 5th. The annual event was open to the public and the goal was to attract new members to the Lodge. Live music and free food was provided to over 300 attendees and we hope to have gained several new members because of the event. We also announced our new social quarters moniker; Antlers and Alibis!



Oak Island Elks Support Veterans Experience Action Center

Oak Island Elks Lodge supported the VEAC (Veterans Experience Action Center) held in Wilmington on September 23, 24 and 25. The event helped Veterans file a new claim or resolve claims for issues from as far back as Vietnam. Approximately 650 Veterans were served during the three-day event. Many had their issue resolved on the spot while others had the process moved forward when it had been stalled for many years. Driven by the Oak Island Lodge Veterans committee, Approximately 20 ELKS were involved, in the pre-work required for the event, volunteering during the event and fund raising. The event is coordinated by the American Legion post 551 and was held at Post 10. The VA and local organization Service officers from Brunswick County, New Hanover County, Winston-Salem and more were also strongly involved in providing service to Veterans from primarily North Carolina. Some Veterans came from other states including Texas, Virginia, South Carolina. A final accounting of all that was accomplished will be available soon, but the Veterans coming out of the event had good things to say and were grateful to have their claims issues resolved.



Veterans waiting before 7 AM to get served at the VEAC

Elks and American Legion team together at the VEAC. L-R, Elks Kevin Swenie and Jim Shire; and Elks & Legion members Morris Reece and Brian Carroll



L-R; Elk & Legion member Tom Cerniglia, Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo, and Elk Steve Martin

Roxboro Elks Receive Proclamation for Recognizing Patriotism Week

The Roxboro Elks Lodge held Patriotism Week in Person County from September 6th - 12th. The lodge was presented with a proclamation on behalf of the City of Roxboro and a proclamation on behalf of Person County. The proclamations states that **“The Order promotes the ideals that the citizens of this nation live in freedom, won through the great sacrifices and many tribulations which have provided the foundation for a free, prosperous and independent life. We realize that each generation must work to maintain this freedom, otherwise, through carelessness or indifference, the rights and liberties enjoyed may vanish, and it is fitting and proper to recognize this freedom and to honor the nation, which provides it.”**

Members of the Lodge participated in a Patriots Day Service at the Person County Veterans Park to honor victims and families of the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks on the United States of America.

Shalotte Elks Donate to Smart Start

The Shallotte Elks Lodge donated \$2000.00 to Smart Start, from their Spot light Grant. Smart Start will be using the money to replace books in their 15 kiosks which are located in Brunswick County North Carolina.

Pictured from left to right. Johanna Mclamb, Family Support Specialist, and Krista Campana, Executive Director from Smart Start; Paul Salerno, Lodge Trustee; Sue Berardi Exalted Ruler, and Sam Johnston Loyal Knight



Goldsboro Elks Raise Money for Pregnancy Center



During the month of July, the Goldsboro Elks Lodge filled baby bottles placed throughout the lodge with loose change and cash to raise fund for Wayne Pregnancy Center. Wayne Pregnancy Center offers free and confidential services to those facing planned and unplanned pregnancy as well as ongoing parenting education and support for new parents. In total Elks raised over \$150.

Pictured left is WPC staff member Katie Weeks and Elks Member Shelby Ostendorf.

**This publication is produced for and by the
North Carolina State Elks Association.
The NCSEA Communication Committee
encourages all member Lodges and
Committee Chairmen to submit articles
to be included in future issues.**

**All submissions may be forwarded to
Ashley Buckwell, Editor at ashbuc@atmc.net**

North Carolina Elks A Beacon of Light

