



**FALL 2014**

**Grand Exalted Ruler John Amen &  
First Lady Marcia Visit North Carolina**

**G**rand Exalted Ruler John Amen and First Lady of Elksdom Marcia Amen attended the Fall convention of the North Carolina State Elks Association, October 24<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup> in the city of High Point. Addressing the membership during the Saturday luncheon, GER Amen praised North Carolina Lodges for their many contributions to the charitable programs of the Grand Lodge and the State Association. Speaking in regard to membership and lapsation, GER Amen mentioned that during the Great Depression membership dropped 50%, but rebounded in following years. Now our Order is primed to grow again, the percentage of lapsation is declining and some states will have membership growth this year. In recognition of his visit GER John Amen was presented with a Kennedy rocker.



**STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

The Fall Convention of the North Carolina State Elks Association took place at the High Point Plaza Hotel-Conference Center October 24-26, 2014 in High Point, NC. We were very honored to have in attendance at this convention our Grand Exalted Ruler John D. Amen and wife Marcia from Denver, Colorado. Also in attendance were our State Sponsor Arthur "Jack" Frost and wife Sharon along with the Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler John Boyd and wife Ann, and Grand Lodge Committeeman Ashley Buckwell and Linda Whisnant.

Our team of State Representatives met the GER and wife Marcia at the Piedmont Triad International Airport in Greensboro, NC on Thursday October 23, 2014 at 2 pm and they were driven by limousine to the hotel in High Point. At 6 pm we entertained approximately 40 invited Elks in our suite at the State Presidents social where the GER and wife were the honored guests. This was followed by a VIP dinner at 7 pm in the hotel.

On Friday, October 24, 2014 the day started with a VIP breakfast at the hotel at 7:15 am. Meetings of the state Charitable Trust started at 8:30 am, followed by the Past State Presidents Advisory Board meeting, and the NCSEA Trustee meeting. Much state business was handled ending at noon. My afternoon consisted of other private meetings and preparing

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### **Calabash VAC Sends Care Packages**

Calabash Elks Veterans Affairs Committee packed and mailed 18 care packages to troops and sailors deployed in combat zones in the Middle East. Twenty volunteers packed the boxes with snacks, games, toiletries, and other sundries.

Pictured are the Calabash VAC members who worked on this project.

### **LEADERSHIP SEMINAR**

The North Carolina State Elks Association will hold its annual Leadership Seminar on February 21, 2015 at the Greensboro Lodge. This seminar is open to all North Carolina Elks and we welcome your participation. This year we will have as a special guest, Grand Lodge Public Relations and Membership Manager, Rick Gathen. An Elk himself, Rick was brought on board to assist the Lodges with their membership and lapsation programs. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend this important meeting.

### **NCSEA Spring Convention**

The Spring Annual Meeting of the North Carolina State Elks Association will be held May 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> in Wilmington, NC at the Hilton Riverside Hotel. Applications for the convention will be posted on line at [ncelks.org](http://ncelks.org) in January, and will also be available from your Lodge secretary. Officers for the 2015-2016 year will be elected and sworn in during this meeting.



### **Statesville Cleans up Lodge & Increases Membership**

Statesville Lodge #1823 has been working hard to clean up the appearance of their Lodge with a recent clean up day, in hopes of attracting members.

They were recognized at the convention as having the largest per capita membership gain in the state.



*Living or Dead*

*"Elks" are never forgotten,*

*Never forsaken.*



## State President's Message Con't

for the evening events. While these business meetings were being conducted our State First Lady, Vickie Acton, escorted the VIP Ladies to Childress Winery for a tour and lunch. Later, at 6 pm, we entertained approximately 60 invited Elks in our suite for the Advisory Board Social followed by the Advisory Board Dinner at 7 pm

On Saturday, October 25, 2014 the day began with a VIP breakfast at 7:15 am and was followed by the NCSEA Fall Business session which I called to order at 9 am. The agenda contained two guest speakers, one a High Point City Councilman, and current Elk member, who welcomed our organization to the city, and the other a young lady camper from Camp Carefree, one of our State major projects. Both speakers were very motivational. They were followed by reports from our State officers and 27 State committee chairmen. I conducted unfinished business, new business, and good of the order. Dignitaries were allowed time for remarks and a very motivating talk was given by our Grand Exalted Ruler John Amen. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15

pm followed by a inspirational memorial service conducted by Salisbury Lodge #699. This was all followed by a business luncheon, at which GER Amen and his wife Marcia were presented with gifts. At 6 pm we entertained the dignitaries in our suite and they were treated to dinner that evening at 7 pm. After dinner all district hospitality rooms and dance were attended by all.

On Sunday, October 26, 2014, everyone was invited to attend the Past Exalted Ruler member guest breakfast at 8:30. The PER's held their meeting and I reconvened the NCSEA meeting. After the Grand Exalted Ruler gave a farewell speech the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10 am.

I am sure you can see that your state President and First Lady are kept very busy preparing, escorting, and entertaining the dignitaries and taking care of business, but we had an outstanding time and are proud you have given us this opportunity. Please make plans to join us at the Spring Convention to be held next May 1-3, 2015 in Wilmington, NC

Fraternally, Teddy G. Acton

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## **"ELKS LODGE PARTNERS WITH TOWN & MERCHANTS FOR SAFE HALLOWEEN"**

### **"Trunk-or-Treat" Event in Town Park Benefits Local Children**

On Friday evening October 31, 2014, in lieu of hosting their own traditional Halloween Party for local children, the Youth Activities Committee of the Calabash Elks Lodge partnered with the Town of Calabash and the local Merchants Association for a coordinated night of safe Halloween activities for the community's children.

The supervised event was held in the Calabash Town Park. Planned activities included a Movie and a Costume Contest. The Children, in costume, paraded around the park before parked cars, their "Trunks" laden with Sweet Treats; Hence, the moniker "Trunk-or-Treat!" Juanita Adams, Lodge Youth Activities Chairman was instrumental in coordinating the event with the Town of Calabash.

Bulk bags of candy were donated by lodge members during the entire month of October, and then Ms. Adams sorted all the donations, preparing 200 amply-filled individual bags of diversified "Treats" handed out to the children on the night of the event.

She also crafted the decorations. "Big Kid" Elks were present to personally hand out the Goodies and help judge the costumes. A Fun, and especially a Safe evening, was had by all, Small Kids and Big Kids alike!

Pictured is Calabash member Joe Adams with a few of the many costumed participants.



# FALL CONVENTION 2014

## HIGH POINT, NC



Camp Carefree alum Jordan Sims addressing the business meeting to thank the members of the North Carolina Elks for their support of the camp and what the camp has meant to her.



Grand Exalted Ruler John Amen and wife Marcia visiting with members in the hospitality room.



GER Amen signing members cards





# FALL CONVENTION 2014

## HIGH POINT, NC



Grand Exalted Ruler Amen was the keynote speaker during the Saturday luncheon.



GER Amen presented ENF Chairman Ron Delzer with a pin in recognition of North Carolina meeting the Grand Exalted Rulers goal.



State President Teddy Acton and wife Vickie



Charitable Trust Meeting  
L - R Steve Clarke, Lee Littiken  
and Steve Gunter

# FALL CONVENTION 2014

## HIGH POINT, NC



David Doherty giving the 11 O'Clock Toast in the Hospitality room



John Boyd, Bob Miller & GER John Amen



First Lady Marcia Amen, Sharon Frost, Linda Whisnant, Ann Boyd and Lynn Connolly



Memorial Service performed by Salisbury Lodge #699

## “What’s an Elk?”

*Submitted By Michael Trescak, Calabash Elks ~ 2679*

Imagine this scenario: You are at the hospital visiting a brother or sister Elk in distress. You are standing in the elevator lobby waiting for the car. The up-arrow lights, the bell dings, and the doors open. You get on the elevator along with another gentleman. As you press the button for the 10<sup>th</sup> floor, you turn and ask the gentleman to what floor he is going? He responds, “9<sup>th</sup> floor please,” but he notices the Elks Emblem on your shirt and asks, “What’s an Elk?” You have the time it takes for the doors to close and the elevator to travel 9 floors to answer his question before he leaves and you never see him again. What do you say?

If the above situation happened to you, are you prepared to “Sell” Elkdom to the person who you just met, and make a great first impression? A well prepared Elks would give their “Elks Elevator Speech”.

What is an “Elevator Speech” you ask? An Elevator Speech is a 1 minute, rehearsed Sales Pitch one is always prepared to deliver at a moment’s notice to “Sell” one’s product and/or service.

Here’s an example: “The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is a national, fraternal organization dedicated to service to the community and charitable works. The Elks have been around since 1867, we have more than 850,000 members and 2,000 lodges nationwide. Our emphasis is on conducting Youth Programs, Serving our Veterans, and doing charitable work in the community in which we live and work. We also provide social opportunities for our members to enjoy food, drink, and camaraderie, while raising funds to perform our Good Deeds. Here’s my card, give me a call, I’ll buy you lunch at our lodge in Calabash, and we can talk more about how you can become an Elk.”

There are 114 words in the above prepared speech, and it takes only 38 seconds to deliver. Build your own Elks Elevator Speech, or use mine. Whatever you do, commit it to memory, practice your pitch in front of a mirror, and time yourself until you have it down pat. So, the next time you are asked “What’s an Elk?” you are well prepared to sell Elkdom and help grow our order and lodge.

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### Future State & Grand Lodge Conventions

State -	2015	May 1 - 3	Hilton Riverside, Wilmington, NC
		October 30 - November 1	The Village Inn, Winston-Salem, NC
	2016	May 6 - 8	Crown Plaza, Asheville, NC
		October 28 - 30	TBD
Grand Lodge -	2017	May 5 - 7	Hilton Riverside, Wilmington, NC
		October 27 - 29	TBD
	2015	July 5 - 9	Indianapolis, IN
	2016	July 3 - 6	Houston, TX
	2017	July 16 - 19	Reno, NV





## HIGH POINT ELKS HONOR FIRST RESPONDERS

First responders are so important to the vitality to our communities on both a local and national scale. On September 20, 2014 High Point Elks Lodge #1155 took an opportunity to honor these heroes by hosting the 1st Annual First Responders Appreciation Day in High Point North Carolina.

Participating in the event were: Guilford County Emergency Medical Services, High Point Fire Department, High Point Police Department, Army National Guard, and the American Red Cross. Each of the first responder units presented information and displayed vehicles used by their departments.



Pictured are American Red Cross volunteers with Elroy. From left to right: Mike Kane, Mandy Shields, and Shelia Flynn

The High Point Police Department gave a demonstration of their K-9 unit apprehending a suspect and the High Point Fire Department gave a demonstration of the Jaws of Life and other lifesaving tools. The High Point Lodge sponsored a Drug Awareness display and there was also an appearance by Elroy the Drug Awareness Mascot. The High Point Ladies Auxiliary sponsored a bouncy house and snow cones for children.

As part of the celebration, the lodge sponsored a free hamburger and hotdog meal for all visiting first responders. All proceeds from meal sales to the public and other contributions were donated to the American Red Cross.

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### Gastonia Elks Lodge Receives Freedom Grant

Gastonia Elks Lodge #1634 were recently awarded a \$2,000 Freedom Grant from the Elks National Foundation for 2014.

Gastonia Elks Lodge plans to use the grant money to recognize Veteran Lodge members and Female Veterans at Faith Farm, a home for homeless female veterans, at a luncheon at the Lodge on November 8, 2014. The money will help buy needed wardrobe closets for the ladies, household needs, and will be used to purchase Christmas items for Veterans.

Barbara Hostetter, President of the Auxiliary of Gastonia Lodge, was delighted to hear the announcement. Faith Farm is one of the organizations the Auxiliary supports.

### RITUAL AND PROTOCOL NEWS

The great State of North Carolina has not had a certified Ritual Judge for several years. This means if any of our prospective Ritual Teams wish to compete at the State or Grand Lodge level we would have to bring in judges from another State or have the team travel to another State to be judged. On January 17 2015 hopefully that will change! Our Area 3 Ritual Chairman Mr. Doug Jones has agreed to travel to the Greensboro Lodge to put on a one day Ritual training clinic. The clinic will be open to past judges or Past Exalted Rulers. Current ER's are invited to participate but they will not receive their credentials until they become a PER. If you have team that would like to perform at this clinic please let me know as we will need a demonstration team for proper judging. For more information please contact John Lawrence, State Ritual Chairman  
jpadlawrence@yahoo.com  
703 973-0069 cell, 252 637-3009 home





## *SCHEDULE*

By now each Lodge should have preparations for their "Hoop Shoot" well under way. If not now is the time to finalize them. Should you need assistance with your Hoop Shoot, please contact your District Chairman. The schedule for the Local and State Hoop Shoots as well as District and State contacts are listed below.

**West District** - Loretta Moses ( [lmoses8@gmail.com](mailto:lmoses8@gmail.com) ) 2:30 pm January 25<sup>th</sup> at Freedom High School, Morganton, NC

**East District** - Dorothy Kinnamon ( [dorothy.kinnamon@yahoo.com](mailto:dorothy.kinnamon@yahoo.com) ) 11:00 am January 31<sup>st</sup> at Woodman Community Center, Kinston, NC

**East Central District** - John Evans ( [johna.evans@infineon.com](mailto:johna.evans@infineon.com) ) 9:00 am January 31<sup>st</sup> at Huck Sansbury Gym, Roxboro, NC

**West Central** - Butch Tomlinson ( [btomlinson1979@gmail.com](mailto:btomlinson1979@gmail.com) ) 11:00 am January 24<sup>th</sup> at Hanes Hosiery Rec Center, Winston-Salem, NC

**State Hoop Shoot** - Ron Dickson ( [dicksonre@aol.com](mailto:dicksonre@aol.com) ) 11:00 am February 14<sup>th</sup> at Grimsley High School, Greensboro, NC

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### ELEVEN O'CLOCK TOAST CONTEST

If you would like to compete in the ritual contest for the ELEVEN O'CLOCK TOAST, there will be an Eleven O'clock Toast contest at the Spring Convention in Wilmington.

There will again be two divisions, one for current ER's and one open division for anyone else wishing to compete.

No signing up, just show up at the designated place, to be announced later at the convention, to compete. We look forward to your participation.





## New Bern Lodge Sponsors

### Fish Trip for Veterans

On September 19 the New Bern NC Lodge #764 sponsored a deep water fishing trip aboard the Continental Shelf for 48 Veterans and 23 guests. The trip was planned in conjunction with On Target 4 Vets. The Veterans consisted of 30 USMC, 11 Army, 3 Navy and 4 USAF. The Lodge Veterans Committee paid for all expenses of the day long trip out of Morehead City NC. Even with some rough water a grand time was had by all!

The Lodge also recently donated fifty ten dollar Golden Corral gift cards to the new Veterans Home in Kinston NC and also contributed \$250.00 to the American Legion Post 564 for a dinner honoring Korean War Veterans. Another \$250.00 donation was made to Promise Place for hosting a luncheon titled "Salute to Women in the Military Past and Present."

## Roxboro Supports Veterans

Roxboro Lodge recently held a golf tournament with a portion of the proceeds going to the new Veterans Park that Roxboro just broke ground on. This will be a memorial park located one block over from our lodge.

Roxboro also participated in the Veterans Day Ceremony that was held following the parade on Saturday Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. The Ceremony was held at the Person County Museum.

Also, Roxboro Lodge voted to donate \$400 for supplies such as toiletries to the Durham's Veterans Hospital. The check will be sent to our district representative to distribute.



## Greensboro Elks Donate To Hospice & Palliative Care

The Greensboro Elks Lodge #602 presented a check for \$22,000 to Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro in October.

The annual Greensboro Elks Charity Golf Tournament had another very successful year. Over the past 4 years the tournament has raised \$78,000 for Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro.







2014 COACHES QUEST FUNDRAISER  
ASHEVILLE LODGE #608

## Asheville Lodge Golf Tourney Supports Coach's Quest

Coach's Quest is an after-school and weekend Christian-based program for needy children in the Asheville community.

They create a positive learning and tutoring endeavor, and co-mingle it with organized sports for a multitude of age groups. We have supported them for the past two years and will continue to do so in the future.

In other news, the Asheville-Buncombe Community Christian Ministry assists homeless veterans. In the past few years, they have placed over 300 homeless veterans back into the work force and now they are expanding their temporary

living quarters for homeless veterans. In the past, Asheville Lodge #608 has supported them with monetary donations and we are working with them to provide continued support in this endeavor.

**Elks Care - Elks Share**

## Asheville Christmas Shoe Party

On Sunday, December 14th, beginning at 1:00pm, Asheville Lodge will be hosting their Annual Christmas Shoe Party for many underprivileged children within their community. This event has taken place for nearly 85 years and the Asheville Lodge continues striving to keep this tradition alive!

This year, they are sponsoring approximately 350 children. This also includes many siblings of the school aged children involved. During the children's time at the Lodge, they will enjoy a variety of holiday excitement. They begin with a favorite Christmas movie along with hot chocolate and cookies while patiently awaiting their turn to participate in the afternoon festivities. All children will receive a new pair of shoes, socks, fruit, candy, crayons, coloring books, pencils, notebook paper, a toy of their choice, as well as a few additional surprises this year. The children will also have a chance to visit with Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, and many of the Elves.



2013 CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SHOE PARTY  
ASHEVILLE LODGE #608

Picture shown is from the 2013 Party.





# VETERANS DAY SERVICES



Air Force Color Guard  
at the NC Veterans Home in  
Fayetteville



SP Teddy Acton visiting with  
Veterans at the NC Veterans Home  
in Fayetteville



SP Teddy Acton lunching with Veterans  
at the Veterans Day Service at the  
Raleigh Lodge

The Month of November is Elks Veterans Remembrance Month and as such the Order of Elks lives by their motto of **“So long as there are Veterans the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them”**. With this thought in mind, your State President Teddy Acton and First Lady Vickie traveled to the NC State Veterans Nursing Home on Thursday, 6 November 2014 and participated in their Veterans Day Celebration. The ceremony was opened with a salute to the colors presented by the United States Air Force color

guard. A very nice luncheon and visit followed the celebration ceremony. On Friday, 7 November 2014, Teddy and Vickie attended the Veterans Day Dinner and Dance at Calabash Lodge #2679. Raleigh Elks Lodge #735 held a Veterans Day of Celebration on Sunday, 9 November 2014, and the NC State Elks President was a requested guest speaker. The Raleigh lodge members furnished an outstanding meal and all attending Veterans were honored. Teddy and Vickie enjoyed visiting with the Veterans and were extremely honored to attend.

## Calabash Lodge Thanks Veterans with Thanksgiving Dinner

Early on the morning of Friday, November 14, 2014, nine members of the Veterans Affairs Committee arrived at the kitchen door of the Calabash Elks Lodge to “Load Up” the items for the Thanksgiving Luncheon that Charlie Tetta and his crew of “Midnight Chefs” had lovingly prepared and packaged throughout the entire night before. The Mission: Deliver and serve a Thanksgiving Luncheon to selected residents, and their caregivers, at the VA Medical Center in Fayetteville, NC.

The annual event is designed to recognize our Veterans and to thank them for their service by providing them with a respite from their daily routine. The event is also an opportunity for the committee members to provide some fellowship and camaraderie to the residents of the home. At the end-of-the-day, we were not sure who benefited more from the experience, the VAC or the Vets?



The VAC has a long-standing tradition at Thanksgiving time of “Serving those who have served.”

Pictured L-R are Calabash members Bob Smith, Charlie Tetta, and Lou Dicaprio

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### “WHAT DOES VETERANS DAY MEAN TO ME”

The following essay was written by Sophie Vaughn of Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Winston Salem. Sophie finished second in Division 1, (grades 5 & 6) in the Grand Lodge Americanism Essay Contest. She was sponsored by Winston Salem Lodge #449.

I was born in Vietnam and came to the U.S. when I was 4 years old. Because my American parents adopted me, I became a citizen when I first planted my feet on U.S. soil. I know I'm lucky because in the U.S., we have more freedoms than in most countries. We have these because of veterans. They risked their lives fighting for our country to protect these freedoms. As Americans, we can go wherever we want, get a good education, live without a curfew, choose our own home, have freedom of speech, wear whatever and choose our own career.

When I meet a veteran, I stand a little taller because I know they're hard workers. Serving their country, they had an important job to do

and soldiers have to depend on each other. It doesn't matter if you look different from the soldier standing next to you. It doesn't matter if you have different religions or skin color or if you're wealthy or not. Veterans are all Americans fighting for the same rights and freedoms.

If I had stayed in Vietnam, I wouldn't have the choices I have now. Veteran's Day represents why I have those opportunities and how veterans were willing to risk their lives so I could live mine. I'm glad there's a day to say thanks because without it, I might forget to salute veterans and the very positive impact they've had on my life.



## Fayetteville Lodge Honors Veterans Gains Member

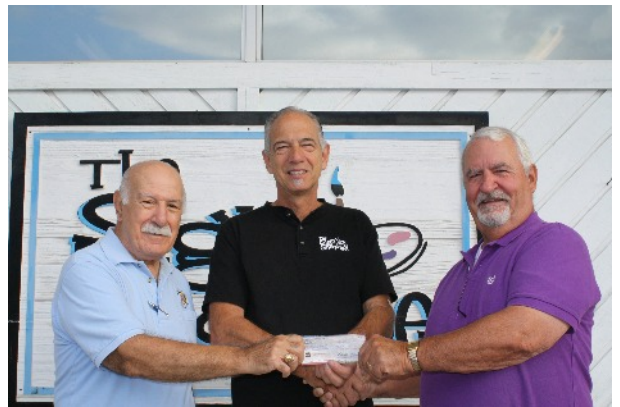
One never knows the impressions that are made when representing one of the Elk supported projects. At the Fayetteville lodge, supporting our veterans has been and always will be at the top of our priority list. During a recent Veteran's Day celebration at the NC State Veteran's Home the Elks attending were approached by Rudy Tatum. Rudy is the son of Margaret Tatum, a WWII veteran and current resident of the Veteran's home. Rudy expressed his feelings of gratitude to the Elks for their commitment to the veterans. He shared that he had been searching for a worthwhile organization like the Elks to become a part of and share in its good works. He was so impressed by our local Elks that he turned in his application for membership. Phil Saunders PER of the Fayetteville NC Lodge is the East Central District representative for the Veteran's home and knows Rudy well as he has seen him numerous times during his visits to the home. He was happy to sponsor Rudy for membership in our lodge. Rudy's mother along with all the other WWII veterans who are residents of the home received a certificate from the Elks on Memorial Day this year thanking them for their service to our country.



Margaret Tatum is pictured below with Dallas Brisson, ER on the left and Phil Saunders, PER on the right.

## Shallotte Lodge Supports Toy Run

Shallotte Elks makes their annual donation of \$500 to the Motorcycle/ Classic Car Run held annually. Last year 150 children met at Walmart in Shallotte to receive \$100 to buy items for themselves, they couldn't buy toys but could buy clothes with ½ the money, the other ½ was to be spent on their family. Shallotte Elks participated as chaperones and escorted some of the kids around the store monitoring their purchases. They then accompanied them to the dedicated check outs. When some of the kids went over the \$100 the chaperones dug into their own pockets to make up the difference.



Pictured left to right Exalted Ruler Sal Gentile, Jerome Munna organizer and Loyal Knight Harvey Hundley Lodge Chairman for this event.



## Shallotte Lodge Holds Golf Tourney to Support Charities

Shallotte Elks players posing for a picture prior the 7th annual golf tournament, held at Brierwood Golf Course. This is their biggest fund raiser to support the many Lodge charities.



## Winston Salem Supports Senior Services

Members of **Winston Salem Elks Lodge #449** delivered much needed food and personal hygiene products to Winston Salem Senior Services for their annual "Christmas in July" event. The items received including those donated from lodge members totaled over \$600.

Richard Gottlieb, President & CEO commented that their funding was cut back this year, but with the donated items from the **Elks**, this should bring everything back up to the right stocking levels.



Pictured from L-R are Randy Zigmund, Pat Stanley and Cathy Stanley.

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*May We Be Thankful  
This Holiday Season,  
Peace and Joy  
To All*

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This is the inaugural issue of the NCSEA electronic newsletter. We wish to thank all the Lodges and members who made contributions and made this possible. This publication will be issued semi-annually in November and May. Provided enough material is received it is possible that the e-letter will go to quarterly issues. Should you have any suggestions, comments, or submittals please forward them to me [ashbuc@atmc.net](mailto:ashbuc@atmc.net) or Teddy Acton at [tacton@atmc.net](mailto:tacton@atmc.net).

Ashley Buckwell