



SPRING 2016

GRAND LODGE MEMBERSHIP MANAGER RICK GATHEN ADDRESSES NCSEA CONVENTION



Grand Lodge Membership and Public Relations Manager, Rick Gathen was the guest speaker at the Spring North Carolina State Elks Association meeting in Asheville. Rick is a dynamic speaker and gave a presentation on the need for change in the way Lodges seek and initiate new members. Highlights include having an active membership committee that meets regularly and sets goals. The need to recognize members for bringing in new members and getting new members involved in Lodge activities. Rick also encouraged Lodges to consider holding a special meeting for the purpose of initiation rather than holding it during a regular meeting. In addition Rick stressed that as

Elks, Lodges have a responsibility to our senior members who after paying dues for many years are delinquent due to failing health, and should pay their Grand Lodge fees. As the Eleven O'Clock Toast says "Elks LIVING or Dead are never forsaken, never forgotten". During the luncheon, Rick followed the membership presentation with a short presentation on Public Relations. Rick's presentations are available to view at elks.org and have been posted on ncelks.org. We encourage you to view them.

As is customary at our Spring meeting, we host the State Presidents from Virginia and South Carolina. In attendance this year was Virginia President Geoff Cox and his wife Susan, and from South Carolina State President Marilyn Adams and "First Dude" Mark Knechtel. Also in attendance for the weekend was our State Sponsor, PGER Jack Frost and his wife Sharon.

The Saturday business meeting and luncheon included reports and award presentations from many committees, and the installation of State President Peter Breidenbach and other NCSEA and Charitable Trust Officers. Pictures from the convention can be found later in the newsletter.

STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



I would like to thank each and every member of the NC State Elks Association for giving me the privilege of serving as your State President for the Elks year 2016-17.

My wife, Joan, and I will do our very best to represent you and North Carolina during this year. We very much enjoyed the NC state convention in Asheville and meeting the Virginia President, Geoff Cox and his lovely wife Susan, and the South Carolina President, Marilyn Adams and her 'First Dude' and past state president Mark Knechtel. We are looking forward to visiting Geoff and his wife at the Virginia state convention in Falls Church, VA June 9th thru 12th and Marilyn and Mark in Sumter, SC August 11th thru 14th. I am also looking forward with great pride to carrying the NC state flag at the opening session

of the grand lodge in Houston.

If you are having any function at your Lodge and would benefit by Joan and my attendance, please extend an invitation to us and if at all possible we will try to attend. Remember to be Proud, be Loud and be Visible.

Sincerely and Fraternally.

G. Peter Breidenbach
NCSEA President



Community Recognizes John Boyd for His Service to Vision



Vision Henderson County Executive Director John L. Boyd speaks about the importance of the program and what leading the program has meant to him. He will retire in May.

Vision Henderson County Executive Director John Boyd will be sorely missed when he retires in a few months, and the community turned out in force Tuesday to make sure he knew how much he was appreciated.

For 20 years Boyd has led the Vision program, which teaches participants about all facets of the community during monthly outings to hospitals, police departments, businesses, nonprofits and even the wastewater treatment facility.

On Tuesday, Vision alumni, Henderson County leaders and community members gathered at Blue Ridge Community College to honor the 72-year-old soon-to-be retiree and celebrate John L. Boyd Day, which will be observed annually on March 15.

Each municipality in the county, along with the Henderson County Board of Commissioners, passed a resolution to honor Boyd.

"It (gives) him the recognition that he deserves," said Misty Jones, director of operations at the Henderson County Chamber of Commerce.

Boyd, however, had no idea he was receiving the honor until the event Tuesday.

"It's exciting," he said. "It's an honor. I mean, how many people can say that they have a day named after them?"

During the reception, Hendersonville Mayor Barbara Volk read the proclamation declaring March 15 as John L. Boyd Day.

"Throughout this 20-year history, John L. Boyd has promoted inclusiveness, vision and operated as a changing agent as a veteran of the community," she said as she read the proclamation to the audience.

She said Boyd has worked with a select group of leaders over the years to understand the issues and opportunities affecting the community in the areas of the economy, environment, education, health care, agriculture and more.

By working with these leaders and participants in the Vision program, Boyd has helped to challenge "them to understand how they can make a difference," Volk said.

Boyd describes his time working with Vision as a "celebration for me of our county."

"I have loved the program from the start," he said in his remarks Tuesday. "It gave me a chance to learn and teach the way I wanted to. Using real people and real-life experiences. A little classroom and a little discussion and then we go see."

Many people describe Boyd as being an influential community member who will always be remembered.

"John is a wonderful mentor and inspiration," said Lee Henderson-Hill, chairwoman of the Henderson County Vision Alumni Association and a member of the class of '97.

The reception celebrated Boyd's two decades of dedication to the program before he passes the reins.

John Boyd Continued:

“He is a remarkable individual,” Henderson-Hill said. “He has done so many varied things in Henderson County ... He has made each of us bigger and better because of what he encourages us to do, challenges us to think about and by putting together the Vision program. It speaks volumes to his commitment to making Henderson County better as well as into the future.”

Boyd was also instrumental in launching a Vision program in Transylvania County, which also began in 1996, Henderson-Hill added.

The program is a comprehensive leadership development program initiated by the Henderson County Chamber of Commerce and BRCC. It gives residents a behinds-the-scenes look at the county they live in, a firsthand view of the critical issues affecting their community and inspires a vision of what could be if residents joined hands to resolve the issues while aiming to promote informed and committed civic volunteerism.

Vision teaches its participants about local government, economic development, business and industry, law enforcement and public safety, cultural resources, the environment and natural resources and education.

Boyd has loved every minute of his time with Vision.

“It’s never been a chore,” he said. “It’s always been fun, active and a legitimate excuse to ask questions.”

However, now the time has come for Boyd to pull back. He will sit on the board for the Henderson County Department of Social Services as well as continue to serve as Special Deputy for the North Carolina Elks and as a member of the Henderson County Cemetery Committee.

“I’ve done what I can do,” he said. “I want to spend the next 10 years doing what I can to help others, but I also want to spend it enjoying myself.”

In August, Ruth Birge will fill Boyd’s shoes, which she says are impossible to fill.

“He’s an amazing human being,” Birge said. “The devotion he has given to this program, but also working for Blue Ridge Community College and serving on all kinds of boards and committees — he’s been a great advocate for the community.”

Over the years, Boyd spent 20 years working as the small business director at BRCC and was heavily involved in the Hendersonville Elks Lodge for 33 years, which he retired from in 2013 after serving as treasurer for his last 14 years.

Boyd has also been a teacher and principal at Erwin High in Buncombe County and worked as a sales representative, probation officer and an entrepreneur.

“He leaves a legacy of good work in the community ... and needs to be told ‘thank you’ for everything,” Birge said.

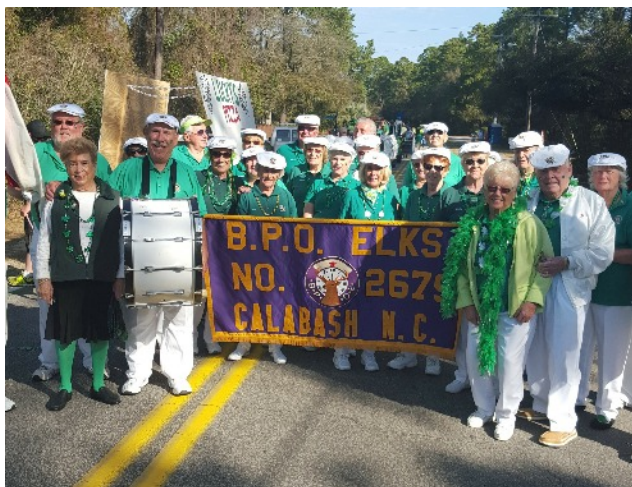
As Boyd says goodbye to the program, there are many things he’ll miss, including getting to know the participants and watching the county change, but he’s excited to see where it goes.

As Vision marks its 20th year, officials are hoping to reach \$20,000 in donations toward the John Boyd Tuition Assistance Fund, which was established by the Community Foundation of Henderson County. Currently the fund has raised around \$6,000, Jones said.

“Being the 20th anniversary, we would like this to happen in conjunction with the milestone,” Henderson-Hill said. “The proceeds from the fund will help other people go through and be a part of the Vision experience.”

To make a donation to the Boyd fund, contact the Community Foundation at 828-606-376

Calabash Elks Kazoo Band Marches in North Myrtle Beach St. Patricks Day Parade



On Saturday March 12th, members of the Calabash Lodge marched in the North Myrtle Beach St. Patricks Day parade. Over the years this has become a tradition for the Lodge. Members meet for weeks before the parade to practice playing Irish tunes with their kazoos and enjoying the comradery this brings.



Americanism Essay Contest Winners Announced

Americanism Chairman Mickey Lail has announced the winners of the 2015-2016 Americanism Essay contest which was titled "What can I do to promote Americanism and Love of Country"

The following students were selected as state essay winners:

Division I

- 1st Cooper Wilson, Hendersonville
- 2nd Ethan Seidel, Morganton
- 3rd Cassie Turner, Kinston

Division II

- 1st Maya Caico Winston Salem
- 2nd Will Fickling Goldsboro
- 3rd Kari Davis Greensboro

The first place winners in each division move on to the national competition. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to everyone for supporting the essay program.

Mickey Lail
NCSEA Americanism Chairman

NCSEA Spring 2016, Asheville



Past State President Ron Dickson presents Blayne Turner with a plaque to honor his years of service to the NCSEA as State Secretary. Blayne stepped down last December after 15 years.



State President Peter Breidenbach presents outgoing State President Ron Dickson with a plaque and his Past State President badge.



Virginia State President Geoffrey Cox and his First Lady Susan



South Carolina State President Marilyn Adams and "First Dude" Mark Knechtel



Chairman of the Board of Directors Steve Clarke presents Mark Alderman with his Thad Eure Distinguished Service Award plaque.



Lee Littiken presents the 2015-2016 Veteran Volunteer of the Year awards to Dallas Brisson and Sheila Charlene Walker for their dedicated service to our Veterans.

NCSEA Spring 2016, Asheville



State Sponsor PGER Jack Frost likes
North Carolina Elks



Convention delegates listen to
proceedings



Banquet hall was packed as over 312
members and guests registered for the
meetings in Asheville



State President Peter Breidenbach and
President Elect Michael Bryant being sworn
into Office



PER Association President Butch Tomlinson
presents plaques to the four District Exalted
Rulers of the year or their representatives.

Winners are:

East - Malcolm Jaggard, Calabash
East Central - Joe Clancy, Sanford
West Central - Doug Cockman, Greensboro
West - Shane Cook, Hendersonville

State ER of the Year - Joe Clancy



Veterans Home Resident Early Jones Celebrates 100 Years

Tuesday March 22nd may have just been another day for some folks, but not for Early Jones Jr. "That's the big man on campus," Lavonne Hudson, 47, a nurse at the N.C. State Veterans Home off of Ramsey Street, said as Jones arrived in the recreation room to find five generations of loved ones from grandchildren to great-grandchildren to great-great-grandchildren. The Army veteran was celebrating his 100th birthday.

Dallas Brisson, with Elks Lodge 1081 that gives so much of its time, attention and funds to veterans in this home, wished Jones a happy birthday.

"How old are you?" Jones asked Brisson. "I'm 62," Brisson said. "Well," Jones said, "you're a baby."

Jones was born March 22, 1916, in Shreveport, Louisiana, when World War 1 was raging, Woodrow Wilson was this country's 28th president and Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford and Gloria Swanson were the silent film stars of their generation.

Jones was one of 13 children born to Early and Mary Jones. He married Magdelene Hall on Oct. 21, 1935, and they had two children - Earlene Marie and Early III - in a marriage that lasted 59 years until her death at age 78 in 1994.

"My grandfather was an avid golfer and golf instructor," she said. "He started out as a caddy when he was a young boy and continued to play golf until 2011, when he was no longer able to walk. He taught many people how to play golf, and taught my husband and me. He still loves golf to this day."

Jones showed off his putting prowess Tuesday on the 10-foot putting hole in the recreation center.

He took careful aim, looked over the lay of the sponge green, sent the white golf ball squarely into the middle of the cup and then gave a fist-pump just like Arnold Palmer used to do at the 72nd hole of The Masters at Augusta National Golf Club. "He's never forgotten how to play golf," Smith said.

And Jones has never forgotten the blueprint for living a good life. "Being good to yourself," he said.

Tuesday may have just been another day for some folks. But not for Early Jones Jr., a grandfather of 8, a great-grandfather of 19, a great-great-grandfather of 25 and, as LaTricia Smith puts it, a great-great-great-great-grandfather "of a few," who happens to be a master with a putter in his hands and a prince of a fellow for 100 years.



Dallas Brisson & Phil Saunders presenting Early with a celebratory sweat shirt



Early Jones practicing his putting

Raleigh Elks Visit Durham VA Medical Center

In March the Raleigh elks traveled to the VA Medical Center in Durham with their Bingo equipment and played the game with 25 patients. Gift of \$5.00 were given out to all the participants.

A total of \$140.00 in monies that were raised by the Raleigh lodge thru their weekly Bingo efforts were donated to this group of VA Patients. A additional \$121.00 of merchandise was donated in the form of gift bags to each VA patient. The VA patients look forward to this monthly event of Bingo accompanied by refreshments and gift bags.



Salisbury Elks Sponsor Polar Plunge to Support Special Olympics

Several costumed people ran out into a muddy High Rock Lake on Saturday February 27th. afternoon at Elks River Park to support the Rowan County Special Olympics. With water temperatures at 46 degrees, participants in the Special Olympics Rowan County Polar Plunge quickly entered and exited the water.

The event started three years ago, it raised \$2,100 for Special Olympics and had 16 people who went into the winter water.

Last year, there were 50 participants and \$6,000 raised. This year's event looks to have exceeded both those numbers. "Plungers" had to donate a minimum of \$25 to go into the water.

Toni Deal, leading knight at the Salisbury Elks Lodge, said this is the second year for the Elks to host the event. "It's what the Elks are all about," Deal said. "It's what we do."

The lodge had its drug awareness trailer on site, and a boisterous team of Elks Lodge members who went into the water. "We're definitely a community-focused organization," Deal said.

***Special
Olympics***



Shallotte Lodge Donates Easter Dinners to Food Bank

On Saturday before Easter the Shallotte Elks donated and distributed 100 Easter Dinners at the Camp Methodist United Church food bank on Main Street in Shallotte. Money for this charity was raised from members of Shallotte Lodge, Shallotte Elks bingo and a grant from the Elks National Foundation. Dinners consisted of a fresh chicken, all the fixings, a fresh baked pie and rolls. Also handed out were dessert coupons compliments of McDonalds.

Chairman Bob Janovic said that the program was very successful and that the Elks are hoping that they can do this again next year.



Left to right Bob Janovic, Rich Lombardo, Susan Berardi, Sue Janovic, Bob Kordiak, Tom Hunter, Danny Hunter with one of the Easter Dinners, Exalted Ruler Sal Gentile and Al Schiulaz. Missing from picture is Debbie Kordiak.

Calabash Elks Donate Furnishings to Boys & Girls Home

The Calabash Elks Lodge recently made a donation of furniture to the Boys & Girls Homes of North Carolina at Lake Waccamaw. The Home was in the process of refurbishing the Lake Side II building for use by unwed mothers and needed furnishings designed for the mother and baby. The Elks Lodge, through a grant from the Elks National Foundation, purchased the required furniture. On April 1st members of the Elks Lodge visited the Boys & Girls Home to view the suite they furnished and presented VP for Development Ray Cockrell with a plaque for display in the Home.

Picture L-R: Ray Cockrell, Home VP for Development; Judy Harms, Elks Member; Al Harms, Calabash Exalted Ruler; Juanita Adams, Leading Knight; Rich Rust, Loyal Knight.



Hendersonville Elks Pay Tribute to Local Law Enforcement

On Sunday, March 20, 2016, the Past Exalted Rulers Association of Hendersonville Elks Lodge honored the following local law enforcement personnel: Charles McDonald, Sheriff, Henderson County; Herbert Blake, Chief, Hendersonville Police Department; Bobbi Trotter, Chief, Laurel Park Police Department; Eric Summey, Chief, Fletcher Police Department; and Mike McLeod, 2nd Sgt., NC State Highway Patrol.

Current PER President, John Boyd, SDGER, with the assistance of Exalted Ruler, Shane Cook, gave a warm welcome to the 40 plus law enforcement officers and their families present. After introducing the guests of honor, Mr. Boyd then presented each with a plaque, thanking them for their hours and dedication in keeping all of us within Henderson County safe and out of harm's way. After receiving their plaque, each recipient offered comments on law enforcement within their area.

Sheriff McDonald, who has served over 25 years in many of the police departments of Henderson County, believes law enforcement is facing a new era where the respect for officers is at a low point. When an officer goes home, they are never off duty. They still carry the commitment to serve. Our officers act responsibly in their roles as police. When an officer encounters a situation, in many cases, only disrespect is shown. Sheriff McDonald's appreciation for the Elks Lodge in honoring his department and himself was heartfelt.

Chief Blake's comments centered on his wife who has supported him throughout his career. He thanked the community of Hendersonville for being a place where he was proud to raise his family. He wished he could have moved to Hendersonville earlier in his life because it was here that he found a job that he loves. The officers who serve under him are 'absolutely the best'.

Chief Trotter made it known that the rumors were right: the Laurel Park Police Department has, on occasion, delivered medicine, picked up food and supplies, and even moved trash cans to the curb for those citizens who needed help. Chief Trotter believes that good police work starts not only with training but with a willingness to serve the needs of the community.

Chief Summey believes there is a change in the way law enforcement approaches its citizens in enforcing the laws of Fletcher. He stated that respect goes two ways; and that a continuing dialogue is needed to ensure the safety of officers as well as the citizens of the community. Chief Summey thanked the Elks for providing an opportunity to discuss these issues.

Sgt. McLeod offered outstanding comments on highway safety; and stressed the need for citizens to approach accident sites with care, ensuring their safety and the safety of the officers at the scene. He agrees that there is a change in people's respect of each other, but that his officers are meeting the challenge.

John Boyd thanked all of the law enforcement officers for coming. Incoming PER President, Ken Kitlasz, delivered the final comments, reiterating that Elks care and appreciate the sacrifice that police officers make every day in keeping us safe. PER Frank Brady stated that honoring the outstanding citizens of Henderson County by the Past Exalted Rulers will be a continuing effort.



From Left to Right: ER Shane Cook; Chief Bobbie Trotter; PER Frank Brady; Chief Herbert Blake; Sgt. Mike McLeod; Chief Eric Summey; Sheriff Charles McDonald; and PER Pres. Ken Kitlasz

So long as there are veterans, the BPOE will never forget them.

Freedom Grant Update

In 2016-17, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission will again award 180 Freedom Grants of \$2,000 each to Lodges that serve the needs of veterans and/or active-duty military members. Applications go online July 1, and will be available through July 31.

Plan a qualified program now and be one of the 180 Lodges to receive this grant.

Remember - North Carolina is a Veteran friendly State

Bugles Across America

Honor your Veteran Departed Members

Sponsored in part by the ENVSC, [Bugles Across America](#) is dedicated to providing free live taps at veterans' funerals across the county. With more than 5000 buglers as members, the organization is able to play at 2300 funerals each month.

"Everyone was impressed and appreciative for your sounding off with Taps at the close of the ceremony. Thank you for standing by us in the cold of that day."

- Robert A. Getz, family member of veteran



NCSEA Fall Convention to be Held in Concord



Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Fall Meeting of the NCSEA to be held at the Embassy Suites and Concord Convention Center October 28th-30th. Close to the Charlotte Motor Speedway, the Concord Mills Mall, SeaLife Aquarium, and NASCAR Speed Park there is plenty to keep everyone busy.

More details will be available at ncelks.org in coming months.

Future Conventions

<u>NCSEA</u>	Fall 2016	Embassy Suites, Concord NC	October 28-30 th
	Spring 2017	Hilton Riverside, Wilmington NC	May 12 th -14 th
	Fall 2017	Doubletree by Hilton, New Bern NC	October 29-31 st
<u>Grand Lodge</u>	2016	Houston TX	July 3-6 th
	2017	Reno NV	July 16-19 th

**** Note - The date of the Spring 2017 meeting in Wilmington has been moved back a week to the weekend of the 12th - 14th due to the Wells Fargo Golf Tournament being held on the 4th - 7th**

Pre-Register for Grand Lodge Convention in Houston

Skip the long registration lines in Houston. Go online to elks.org and pre-register.

Not only will you save time but you will save \$10 on your registration fee, only \$50.

North Carolina delegates will be staying at the Residence Inn by Marriott, just a short walk to the convention center. Shuttle bus available.

Kinston Elks Recognizes Americanism Essay Winners



In February the Kinston Elks Lodge held its annual Americanism Awards banquet to recognize Americanism Essay winners. Pictured are the Lodge Essay winners with Americanism Chairman Hilda Byrd.

L-R: Jaleah Taylor, Rosemary Crawley, Connor Lynch, India Harper, Cassie Turner and Chairperson Hilda Byrd

Front row: Amber Swinson

Gastonia Elks Make Donation to Dream Center's Runners Camp

On Wednesday April 20, 2016, Gastonia Elks Lodge Exalter Ruler Rachel Falls and Lodge Grant Coordinator Dan Craig presented a \$2,500.00 check to the Dream Center of Gaston County. The \$2,500 donation will be used this Summer to fund the Dream Center's Annual Runners Camp.

The Runner's Camp is an annual event for elementary age children in Gaston County. These children are not financially able to attend a paid summer camp. The four day camp features Olympic style events where participants are challenged physically, while in an environment that fosters team work and community spirit.

The \$2,500.00 donation was made possible due to a grant from the Elks National Foundation.

Pictured back L-R Dan Craig, Elks Lodge Grant Coordinator; Dickey Spargo, Dream Center Chairman of the Board; Wavey Williams, Dream Center Executive Director.

Pictured Front L-R Rachel Falls, Exalted Ruler of Gastonia Elks Lodge; Amy Hudson, Dream Center Director.





2016 State Hoop Shoot Finals

North Carolina made an excellent showing at the National Hoop Shoot Finals in Chicago. The following are the results for our participants:

Girls 8-9 Aniston Chapman 18/25 tied for 6th

Girls 10-11 Alexis Wolgemuth 18/25 tied for 7th

Girls 12-13 Brianna Lewis 25/25 tied for first 14/15 in shoot off finished runner up.

Boys 10-11 Grant Malloy 20/25 tied for 5th

The North Carolina Elks are very proud of all of these youth for their performances in the Hoop Shoot Finals. To Brianna Lewis we wish you well in your endeavors. To the other three youth hopefully we will see you again next year.

NC Hoop Shoot Director
Mark Alderman

Kinston Uses Grant to Assist Homeless Veterans

Kinston Elks #740 received a \$2,000 grant last fall to help with the Veteran's Stand-Down. This grant enabled our lodge to provide transportation for veteran's living in Lenoir county to travel to Wayne county to attend the stand-down. The grant also provided funding to purchase clothing and bedding for homeless veterans. Kinston Elks is involved in our community and we hope to assist with the stand-down again in the fall by writing another Freedom Grant from the Elks National Veterans Service Commission.



Pictured is Victor Kosinski, who oversaw the grant and worked at the stand-down assisting veteran's throughout the day.





Elizabeth City Lodge Donates Grant to Benjamin House

Thanks to a Gratitude Grant from the ENF, Elizabeth City Lodge Exalted Ruler David King presented a check in the amount of \$1,500 to Benjamin House, a home for adults with developmental challenges. Benjamin House used the money to help fund a concrete walking path around the back yard of the property to encourage good health and exercise among the residents. The path meanders through their peace garden which boasts a variety of beautiful plants, colorful blooms and several stones with the word "peace" written different languages.

Accepting the check were Ann Hughes and her son, Benjamin Hughes.



Kinston Lodge Uses Grant for Childrens Festival

Kinston Elks #740 received a \$2,500 Promise Grant for 2015-2016 to assist with the Partnership for Children's Second Annual Fall Festival in October, 2015. Elks were able to pay for signage and goodie bags with the Elks logo and also "mood" cups in each goodie bag.

Safety reflectors, decorations, wrist bands were also purchased.



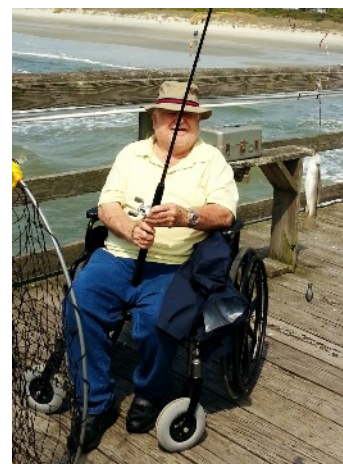
Pictured is Jim and Cheryl McLain at the Kinston Elks drug awareness table. Elks handed out pencils, erasers to school children and drug awareness materials to parents. All visitors were encouraged to wear red ribbons and were shown the www.elkskidszone.org website.

CALABASH ELKS MAKE SOME VETERANS LIVES JUST A LITTLE BIT BRIGHTER”

On Thursday, April 21, 2016, the Veterans' Affairs Committee from the Calabash Elks lodge , hosted their 9th annual “Vet Day at the Lodge,” a day of activities, brotherhood, and camaraderie which included; a fishing trip to the Sunset Beach pier, Lunch, and a very special game of BINGO. The annual event is designed to recognize our senior veterans for their service and make their days “Just a Little Bit Brighter.”

The committee invited veterans from Summit Place Assisted Living in Little River, SC, the Shallotte Assisted Living facility in Shallotte, NC, and the North Carolina State Veterans Retirement Home in Fayetteville, NC.

Twenty (20) World War II and Korean Conflict-era veterans, some wheelchair-bound, traveled from their respective assisted living facilities to the lodge in Calabash, NC. From there, the veterans were all transported to the fishing pier in nearby Sunset beach, NC for a few hours of fishing and camaraderie where the members of the Elks' committee supplied fishing poles, bait, and assistance to those who were hoping to catch the “Big One!” An event record was set, as - the group caught a total of 8 fish that day! The entire group reconvened back at the lodge dining room for lunch cooked and served by committee members, followed by a very special game of BINGO, where -- the BINGO numbers are called until “Everyone” has had the opportunity to yell “BINGO,” and garner a prize. Both the veterans and the Elks' committee members all had a rich, full day.



Pictured above – Members of the Calabash Elks Lodge’s Veteran’s Affairs Committee await the debarkation of the invited residents from the NC State Veterans Retirement Home in Fayetteville, NC for their “Fishing Adventure” at the Sunset Beach, NC fishing pier. The activities bus was donated by the NC State Elks Association.

Kinston Lodge Distributes ENF Grants

Kinston Elks Lodge #740 applied for and received \$2,500 Gratitude Grant from the Elks National Foundation. Members continued with their People and Pets Program, donating \$1,000 to Mary's Kitchen, a local soup kitchen to feed the less fortunate.

\$1,000 also was donated to the local SPCA, which is currently undergoing a fundraising effort to rebuild a state of the art facility in the county to house homeless puppies, dogs, kittens and cats.

This year, Kinston Elks was fortunate to receive an additional \$500 and the members were all in agreement to donate to this monies to youth organization Kinston Teens, Inc., founded in October, 2014 by 14 year old Chris Suggs as an effort to increase the awareness of issues affecting youth in our community and to engage youth in community service and local government.

Kinston Elks #740 also received the \$2000 Beacon Grant to purchase car seats and zipper jacket reflectors for Safe Kids, Inc. Kinston Elks has been in partnership for the past three years to purchase car seats for youth in Lenoir and Greene Counties



PC Barwick, an Elk for 55 years and weekly cook at Mary's Kitchen accepts the check on behalf Mary's Kitchen

Tammy Everett, VP of the Board of Lenoir County SPCA accepts the award from PER Jim McLain



Chris Suggs accepts the award from Jim McLain, Past Exalted Ruler of Kinston Elks as members of Kinston Teens watch



Raleigh Elks Have Over Twenty Years of Supporting Veterans at the Durham Hospital with Monthly Visits

On April 21st, members of Raleigh Elks Lodge went to the Veterans Hospital in Durham N.C. Raleigh Elks set up and played Bingo with 25 patients. Gifts of five dollars were given to all Veteran Patients as winners of Bingo with additional gift bags of merchandise for each participant. A total of \$310.00 in monies that are raised by the Raleigh lodge thru their weekly Bingo efforts were donated to this group of VA Patients.

This has been a monthly event for Raleigh Elks lodge for over twenty years supporting our Veteran community

Winston-Salem Lodge Recognizes Youth



The Winston Salem Elks Lodge hosted their Youth Recognition Awards banquet. Maya Caico from East Forsyth Middle School received several awards, including placing first in the Americanism Essay Contest, for the state of North Carolina. Maya will represent North Carolina in national competition at the Elks national convention in July.

Pictured from left to right: Exalted Ruler Michelle Vincler; Trustee Pat Stanley; Maya Caico and Americanism Essay contest Chairman Randy Zigmund.

Wilson Lodge has “Most Valuable Student” Scholarship Winner

Congratulations go out to Shivraj Sandhu, sponsored by the Wilson Lodge, for finishing in second place in the Elks Most Valuable Student scholarship contest. Shivraj will receive a \$40,000 scholarship (\$10,000 per year for four years).

Seven other applicants from North Carolina received scholarships of \$1,000 per year for four years.

We wish each of these applicants much success in their college studies.



NCSEA Members Attend “Veterans Legislative Day” In Raleigh

On Wednesday, May 11th, 2016, a group of NC Elks attended the NC State Veteran's Council "Veterans Legislative Day" at the NC Legislative Building at 16 West Jones Street, Raleigh, N. C. NCSEA State Chairman of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission Lee Littiken along with Paul Hampton, NCSEA State Chairman of Government Relations Teddy Acton and his wife Vickie and East District Chairman NCSEA Veterans Home Jack Strickland set up their NC Elks Booth with a beautiful display board of NC Lodge Activities across the State of North Carolina. There were also handouts for visitors of our ENVSC flyers, along with label pins to "Support our Veterans". Refreshments of baked cookies and bottled water were given out to visitors during the day. Our delegation met with Speaker of the House Tim Moore in the House Chambers at 10:00 AM that morning. Lee Littiken and other members of the council met with Senator Pate at 8:30 that same morning to review our 2016 Legislative Goals. North Carolina is 8th in the nation with a veteran population of 775,020. This annual Veterans Legislative Day is done to help our House of Representatives and Senators aware of our veterans needs, providing assistance in them passing such House and Senate Bills introduced.



L - R: Vickie Acton, Government Relations Chairman Teddy Acton, NCSEA Veterans Home Representative Jack Strickland, NCSEA State Chairman of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission Lee Littiken, and Paul Hampton.

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