



FALL 2015

GRAND EXALTED RULER RONALD HICKS ATTENDS NCSEA FALL CONVENTION



The Fall convening of the North Carolina State Elks Association held in New Bern was honored with the visitation of Grand Exalted Ruler Ronald Hicks and First Lady Nancy. GER Hicks attended the business meetings and spent time getting to know the members of the Association. The highlight of the visit was a trip to the North Carolina State Veterans Home in Kinston where he took a tour of the facility. NC State Director of the NC Veterans Homes James Woodard and Kinston Home Administrator Sara Dieter led the tour and informed GER Hicks of the wonderful works of the NCSEA in supporting the residents of the Homes. GER Hicks also got to hop aboard the recently delivered handicap bus donated to the Home by North Carolina Elks. In his address to the Association at the banquet, GER Hicks praised NC Elks for their charitable work, support of the Elks National Foundation, and efforts to increase membership.

GER Ronald Hicks and State Sponsor PGER Jack Frost looking over the newly purchased handicap bus delivered to the NC State Veterans Home in Kinston.



MESSAGE from STATE PRESIDENT RON DICKSON



“To inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity” Those are the first eleven words of our mission statement. Webster defines the word inculcate as: to teach and impress by frequent repetitions or admonitions. Let this serve as one of those frequent repetitions.

With the convention concluded, we are six months into our current year for the NCSEA. We have the same concerns as Elks from all across this great land. Membership is always an issue that needs constant attention. At this writing, there are almost 1600 members across the state, having not paid their current lodge dues. That amounts to 16% of our membership. As you can easily see, there is much work to be done in the next five months.

On a somewhat lighter side, our fall convention took place in the lovely city of New Bern from October 23-25, 2015. The Doubletree By Hilton was our headquarters hotel. Our very special guests were our Grand Exalted Ruler, Ronald L. Hicks and his wife, Nancy from Fredericksburg, Virginia. They drove in from the Commonwealth of Virginia on Thursday, October 22nd,

arriving mid- afternoon and were greeted at the hotel by our State Sponsor, PGER Arthur “Jack” Frost and myself as well as other dignitaries from across the state. We all were honored to welcome our Grand Exalted Ruler.

Along with our State Sponsor, PGER Arthur Frost, other special guests were John Boyd, SDGER, Ashley Buckwell, GL Fraternal Committee, Steve Clarke, past GL officer and Lee Littiken, past GL committeeman. Thursday would not be complete without the President’s social for invited guests. Some 35-40 people attended to welcome our Grand Exalted Ruler, Ronald L. Hicks and his wife, Nancy to North Carolina for his official visit. The evening concluded with a VIP dinner.

Friday was a very busy day as we started with breakfast at 7:15 AM, followed by meetings of the NCSEA Charitable Trust, the NCSEA Advisory Board and the NCSEA Board of Directors. The Advisory Board Social was attended by 50-60 at 6:00 PM and was followed by dinner.

Saturday, October 24 began with breakfast with our special guests including our Grand Exalted Ruler. The Fall Business Session was convened at 9:00 AM. We heard reports from all State Officers as well the chairmen of the standing committees. All the dignitaries spoke including Grand Exalted Ruler Ronald Hicks. The business session adjourned around noon. Members of New Bern Elks Lodge conducted a superb memorial service. The business luncheon followed the memorial service. We heard from our Grand Exalted Ruler at the luncheon. Sandy Lail, from Hickory Lodge gave a presentation detailing a program that their lodge is involved in to benefit the local adult challenged community. We hosted a smaller group on Saturday evening for cocktails and dinner at Morgans Tavern in New Bern. Live entertainment was provided later in the hospitality room by Vicki Ryan and Nathan Hefner. Vicki and Nathan sang many classics and provided the music for dance sets. Thanks to the vice presidents for all their effort to ensure the first class hospitality rooms.

The 2015 Fall Convention concluded on Sunday morning with the PER breakfast beginning at 8:30. The PER business as well as a wrap up of the NCSEA business was completed at approximately 10:00 AM.

I want to express the gratitude of the NCSEA to the New Bern Elks for taking care of the registration duties during this convention as well as all the other responsibilities of being the host lodge.

This is a once in a life time opportunity and once again, I thank all NC Elks for allowing me to serve as your President.

Ronald Dickson
NCSEA President

"ELK'S LOVING KARE SOCIAL"

How is your Lodge using its ENF Grants?

The Hickory Elks Lodge has started a program to serve the adult handicap population of Catawba County. This program is titled "Elk's Loving Kare Social". It's mission is to give adult challenged individuals an opportunity to socialize together in a safe, non-threatening environment.

The program, which began in 2013, started with 35 participants and has now grown close to 120. Every other month the Hickory Lodge hosts an event where they provide a meal, door prizes, and lots of fun at no cost to the participants or care givers. Some of the events have included a Valentines dance, a Halloween party that allowed the guest to paint a 16"x20" pumpkin canvas, a Summer Carnival which included hamburgers, hot dogs and even a dunking booth. At Christmas they held a Holiday Celebration where each participant received an "Elk's Loving Kare Social" T-shirt.

Lodge member and DJ Gary Young has become very popular with the group. They love to dance and he has created play lists just for this group and he gives them that opportunity when they meet every other month.

In addition to the social events at the Lodge, at Christmas of 2013 Hickory Elks donated 40" flat screen TV's to 5 of the Catawba Valley Behavioral Health Group Homes, and in the summer of 2014 donated 5 gas grills and all new cushions for the seats of their outdoor patio furniture.

The members of the Hickory Lodge also volunteer with a local group called Walk n' Roll, which provides activities such as bowling, T-ball, and chorus for adult handicap population in Hickory.

All this has been funded, in part, through a Beacon Grant from the ENF.

For more information on this program and how you can start a similar program in your community contact Sandy Lail by leaving a message at the Hickory Lodge. 828-322-2527.

**"ELKS PRIDE -
COMMUNITY FOCUS"**



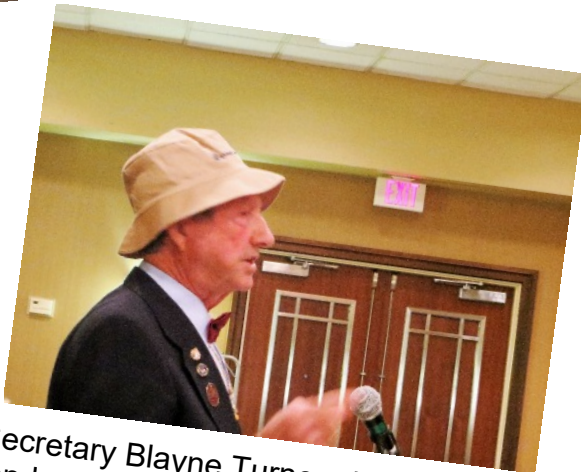
NEW BERN CONVENTION PHOTOS



GER Hicks and New Bern ER Kathleen Myer in the Lodge room at the New Bern Lodge.



GER Hicks signing membership cards.



State Secretary Blayne Turner giving his report and comedy routine at the business meeting. .



GER Hicks accepting donations to the ENF. Donations from the weekend totaled close to \$5000.



PDD Jim Ross lights candles representing each NC Lodge during the Memorial Service performed by the New Bern Lodge.



GER Hicks at the NC State Veterans Home. L-R GER Hicks, Home Administrator Sara Dieter, Elks Home Coordinator Jack Strickland, and NC Veterans Home Director James Woodard.

NEW BERN CONVENTION PHOTOS



The hospitality room provided and opportunity to relax and share time together.



Saturday evening music gave the members time to show off their moves on the dance floor.



Nathan Hefner of the Hickory Lodge at the keyboard providing music for the Hospitality room.



NEW BERN CONVENTION PHOTOS



GER Ron Hicks and First Lady Nancy kicking up their heels in the hospitality room.

GER Hicks and wife Nancy along with DDGER Jim McLain, PDD Jack Strickland and PSP Lee Littiken with the new handicap bus for the Kinston Veterans Home.



State President Ron Dickson addressing the members during the business meeting.



Many thanks go out to the Members of the New Bern Lodge who were wonderful hosts.



Linda Dickson presented First Lady Nancy Hicks with a bracelet as a token of her visit to North Carolina.



Asheville Spring 2016



Plan now to attend the Spring Meeting of the North Carolina State Elks Association in beautiful Asheville at the Crowne Park Plaza Resort May 6th - 8th.

With so much to do in this historic city you might want to come early or stay late to enjoy the many venues Asheville has to offer, there is something for everyone. Visit Biltmore Estate and try wine tasting at their award winning winery, or explore the more than 20 craft breweries in "Beer City USA". Downtown offers a wide variety of unique shops, art galleries, the Thomas Wolfe House, and many great restaurants. The Blue Ridge Parkway is a wonderful day trip where you can drive to Mount Mitchell, the highest point east of the Mississippi, or travel to the Smokey Mountains National Park and the Cherokee - Maggie Valley area.

We hope to see you there.

FUTURE CONVENTIONS

NCSEA

Spring 2016	Asheville, NC May 6 - 8 Crown Plaza Resort
Fall 2016	Concord, NC October 28 - 30 Embassy Suites
Spring 2017	Wilmington, NC May 5 - 7 Hilton Riverside
Fall 2017	New Bern, NC October 26 - 29 Doubletree Hilton

Grand Lodge

2016 Houston, TX July 3 - 6

NEW BERN ELKS TREAT VETERANS to an ICE CREAM SOCIAL



The New Bern Elks Lodge provided ice cream sundaes and cookies for the residents and staff at the North Carolina Veterans Home in Kinston. Approximately 130 people enjoyed the treat to cool off of a hot summer day. The best part for the New Bern members was interacting with the residents and seeing the smiles on their face. The staff at the Home expressed appreciation that they were included.

KINSTON LODGE PARTICIPATES in NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

For National Night Out on August 4th Kinston Lodge set up a table with drug prevention awareness materials for this community event. Other organizations participated including: American Red Cross, Wal-Greens, Kinston High School ROTC, local law enforcement and fire department, mental health agencies and Lenoir Community College. At the Elks table, attendees were given a red ribbon, school children a pencil and eraser and juice boxes.



CALABASH LODGE HONORS VICTIMS of 9/11

In honor of the victims of 9/11, members of the Calabash Lodge along with members of the Lions Club set up camp on the Hwy 17 overpass in Shallotte on September 11th to wave our Flag to all traffic heading up Hwy 17. Later that day the Lodge held a service by the Flag pole outside the Lodge. They have many members from the New York, New Jersey area who knew victims from the Twin Towers.



ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

“NOVEMBER IS ELKS VETERANS REMEMBRANCE MONTH”

Some twenty-two million veterans live in our communities. The Elks National President, Ronald L. Hicks, has proclaimed November as Veterans Remembrance Month as a way to encourage us to find local veterans and help them with their needs.

As Elks, we can never do enough for our Veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much for us. The Iraq and Afghanistan Wars alone have generated more than 2 million young veterans, many of whom have returned home with disabling injuries, while more than 18% of new Veterans suffer from PTSD.

The Elks proudly declare: ***“So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.”*** "Among our ongoing efforts to back up that statement, we make our presence known in every VA hospital; adopt veterans in need of support; assist military families with our Army of Hope; place POW/MIA tables in our Lodges; and participate in Stand Downs for homeless veterans. To learn more, visit www.elks.org/vets/."

And, just recently, the Elks have entered into a partnership with Veterans Health Administration to support efforts for homeless Veterans in their communities. To this end, the Elks have pledged \$4 million to help end Veteran homelessness.

Let us remember to thank our Veterans and to show our appreciation in some special way every day, not just in November. And, should you see a member of our Armed Services in uniform, please march right up to him or her and say: "Thank you for your service." It is the least we can do.



ENF Grants Help Raleigh Elks Assist Raleigh Rescue Mission



On the first Saturday of each month a group of dedicated Raleigh Elks Lodge 735 members give their time and resources to helping the Raleigh Rescue Mission.

Each month the lodge creates the menu for the dinner meal, buys and prepares the food and necessities and serves a fantastic meal to the homeless & needy including children at the mission. This group of Elks is comprised of several different members each month, giving all an opportunity to serve the mission.

On the average 80-100 homeless are served dinner meals each month by these dedicated Elks. This month's meals were served by our own Lodge Secretary Patricia Mckinley, her husband Bill, Ruth Claerhout and Justin Schaeffer and other crew members.

The monies for this event come from a Grand Lodge Grant- over the past 4 years our lodge has been approved by the Grand Lodge to receive \$2,000 via the Beacon Grant.



Calabash Elks and Elroy Treat Kids to “Trunk or Treat”



The Elks of Calabash celebrated Halloween by participating in the Town's "Trunk or Treat" for area kids. Juanita Adams, Lodge Loyal Knight, coordinated the event with the Town of Calabash. Lodge members donated the candy which was handed out from the trunks of cars at the Calabash Town Park. The event which drew close to 140 costumed children of all ages was highlighted by the appearance of Elroy the Elk, to the delight of both the kids and adults alike. Area merchants donated prizes that were awarded in several categories including, scariest, prettiest, funniest, and most original.



North Carolina Elks Charitable Trust
Helping North Carolina Elks Help Others

North Carolina State Association Elks Charitable Trust funds make possible for the Elks of North Carolina to pursue a variety of valuable endeavors for North Carolinians each year. Among these are to fulfill our promise and reason for existing, **“So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them”**.

Remembering our Veterans of our Military Forces with purchasing transportation vans, televisions, power wheel chairs, comfort items, and sponsoring activities for NC State Veterans Homes and VA Medical Centers and Supporting Camp Carefree by providing funding for children to attend a camp for children with chronic illnesses.

Additionally, the Trust funds Elks Americanism programs such as; Children’s Guide to the Pledge of Allegiance, Americanism Essay contest, Support Our Troops Activities, Fly our Flag Promotion, Show Your Colors, and Flag Day Observance. Our Youth Programs: Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Girl & Boy Scouts recognition, Scholarship Programs, and The Drug Awareness program.

Please fill in the below Donor Form. THANK YOU for your participation!

Certified 501 (c) (3) Organization www.ncelkscharitabletrust.org

Please make checks payable to:
NCSEA Charitable Trust
PO Box 29452, Greensboro, NC 27429-9452

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

† **Enclosed is my one-time donation in the amount of \$** _____

† **I would like to pledge the total amount of \$** _____

Annually Semi-Annually Quarterly Monthly

I would like to make a tribute in the amount of \$

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

The name & address of person you wish to be notified of your tribute:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Donor Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Donor Contact Phone # _____ **Email:** _____

IF an Elk - Lodge Name & # _____

Raleigh Elks Fall Festival at Durham Veterans Hospital



On October 29th, members of the Raleigh Lodge visited the Veterans Hospital in Durham N.C. for the Fall Festival. Raleigh Elk members Angie Edwards, Alice Morse and Jennifer Stormer participated with 30 patients and played a game called "corn hole" donated by the Raleigh Elks to the hospital several years ago. A fun time was had by all the patients. Each patient also received a bag of goodies that included socks, bananas, deodorant, crackers, fruit snacks and note pads with a pen. A Raleigh Elks Lodge 735 hat was also given to all the participants. A Chicken Bake-Off Fund raiser was held by Raleigh Elks Lodge 735 and a total of \$333.00 was raised to help with this event.



Thank A Veteran Thank A Serviceman

Elizabeth City Elks Honor Member Chuck Leslie



Chuck Leslie is a member of Elizabeth City Lodge #856 (the Rising Sun in the East). He is also the Head Coach of the Bruin soccer teams at Camden County High School. Chuck just hit a milestone in his coaching career as the Bruins won their 200th game under his tutelage.

With little coaching experience under his belt, Chuck took over the Camden soccer program 8 years ago. He credits the success of the program to the players. When asked about his accomplishment after his 200th win, he responded "It is all about the kids." His record as the boys' soccer team coach is 200-95-28. He credits the 200 wins to the players and the 95 losses to himself.

Chuck's service to the community does not end with his leadership of the Camden soccer program. He retired from active military service after 30 years in the United States Coast Guard. He retired as a Master Chief

Petty Officer as a Storekeeper. He is one of the few Storekeepers in Coast Guard history to have earned a permanent Cutterman's Pin. He continues to serve the Coast Guard as a civilian. Chuck is also active in New Community Church in Elizabeth City, as well as an integral part of Lodge #856. Chuck is highly regarded in the community because of the high level of integrity he demonstrates in his life and in the soccer program. One thing that is well known about him is that he does not tolerate any foul language on the soccer field and he is universally respected for this. Any Camden player that lets loose an expletive on the soccer field has to run one lap for every letter in the word that was uttered.

Chuck has been an inspirational mentor to the many players who have passed through his program. In his work with these fine young people, and at church, and at the Lodge, Chuck exemplifies the core values of our Order.

Is your Lodge Recognizing its Outstanding Members?

At a time when many Lodges are facing a lapsation problem, is your Lodge doing what it can to recognize members who make an outstanding contribution?

Did you know that your Lodge can order certificates, at no cost to you, to honor those members?

Each year, from January thru March, the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee will send you certificates to recognize two Members who you feel contributed the most to your Lodge's success during the past year.

Last year only one third of Lodges in North Carolina applied for these certificates. Is your Lodge missing this opportunity.

To order your "**Outstanding Member**" certificates, simply log on to elks.org and look for the form "GER Award Certification" under downloads under the Fraternal Committee. Or you may contact your Area 3 Committeeman, Ashley Buckwell, at ashbuc@atmc.net to have a form e-mailed to you.

Raleigh Elks Golf Outing Supports Charities

At this year's annual golf outing which the Raleigh Elks Lodge 735 has held for the past 20 years \$3800.00 was raised for notable charities the lodge has supported in this area for years.

Donations were made to the following charities:

ENF - \$1500.00,

Transitions Lifecare (formerly Hospice of Wake County) - \$1000.00

NC State Veterans Home (Fayetteville) - \$400.00

NC State Veterans Home-Durham- \$300.00

USO of NC- \$300.00

Helping Hand Mission of Raleigh - \$300.00

Committee Chairman Elliot Smith and 11 committee members work hard each year to organize and stage this event. This year there were a total of 120 Elk members participating in this event.

Raleigh Elks Lodge Participates in Field of Dreams Event

The Raleigh Elks Lodge participated in this year's Field of Dreams held locally here in North Carolina. The monies provided by the Elks Promise Grant were used to purchase T-shirts and serve lunch to the participants of this year's event. The Field of Dreams event is a program where special needs students are "partnered" with a member of their local High School Baseball or Softball teams for a fun day of baseball.

The Raleigh Elks served refreshments for this event to the teams and visitors.



Chicken Bake-off Raises Money for Veterans



The Raleigh Elks Lodge hosted its annual NC Barbecue Chicken George bake-off in September. The event was started by one of our esteemed PER's several years ago. The Lodge has continued this event each year to honor the memory of George Orwell. This year's event was a huge success with over 350 meals sold locally in the area.

The Raleigh Elks lodge donated \$1400.00 to several Veteran charities in the area.

USO \$600.00, Durham VA Hospital \$400.00, Veterans Day Luncheon \$300.00 and the ENF \$160.00.

This year's event was organized by Larry Cox and Michele Delaire with help from a team of several Elks who were key contributors in making this event a success.

CALABASH MAYOR SIGNS PATRIOTISM WEEK PROCLAMATION



Calabash Mayor Mary Knight is shown with Calabash Elks Exalted Ruler Malcolm Jaggard after signing a proclamation declaring the week of September 7-13 Patriotism Week in Calabash.

Sandy Lail of the Hickory Lodge Presents GER Ron Hicks And Wife Nancy with E.L.K.S. T-shirts



Sandy Lail from Hickory Lodge 1654 shared the Elks Loving Kare Social Program at the NC State Convention held in New Bern, NC October 23 thru October 25, 2015. The E.L.K.S. program began in June, 2013 and is held every other month. E.L.K.S. program allows the Adult Challenged population in the Hickory area, a safe, non-threatening environment, where they can come and dance, have a meal and enjoy the fellowship of like guests and the Volunteers of the Hickory Lodge, serving approximately 120 participants at each event. Pictured here is Sandy presenting the GER, Ronald Hicks and his wife Nancy T-shirts that were designed for the E.L.K.S. participants and the Volunteers.

BE PROUD OF YOUR LODGE'S CHARITABLE WORKS

Please submit articles and pictures of your Lodge's charitable endeavors to be published in the NCSEA Newsletter. Your programs may inspire other Lodges to adopt a similar program and you may discover a project that would increase the **Community Focus** of your Lodge.

E-mail articles and pictures to Ashley Buckwell at ashbuc@atmc.net.