

## **“Newsletter” – 09/12/26”**

### ***Did you know?***

The Florida Army of Hope is a support program run by the Florida State Elks Association to help families of deployed military members and returning veterans. It provides financial aid for medical and dental emergencies, school lunches, auto and home repairs, appliance fixes, childcare, and clothing. Brings dependent children of deployed service members to the Florida Elks Youth Camp for free (our lodge sent 15 this year!). Local lodges host events like poker runs, luncheons, and picnics to raise money for these military families. If you need help or know of someone that does, you can get help through the link at Florida Elks Army of Hope Application or call the Elk Veterans support line at (866) 355-8387.

The Elks Riders are revving it up and taking off this month with some very exciting events. Come join in the fun, win some money for charity and support your local lodge! Here are some events they are sponsoring:

**Bar Poker** – every Sunday at 3:00 pm. 10 rounds of fun! NFL Package Sunday ticket, and wings! All proceeds go to veterans and children’s charities!

October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> are going to be huge! It’s the **“Suncoast Bikefest Charity Ride for Autism.”** You do not want to miss out on this event. It is \$20.00 per person and cars are welcome! Start your day with Dee’s famous “all you can eat breakfast buffet”. Then enjoy the ride ending at Peggy’s Corral. November 1<sup>st</sup> brings on more excitement and fun with entertainment, raffles, food trucks, vendors – all benefiting Florida Elks for Autism. More details will follow as the event gets closer but mark your calendar now to “save the dates”. Hope to see you there!

Veteran's Support Group is this Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. All veterans receive a "Free" meal. Any guest or member can eat for a \$10 donation. All veterans are encouraged to attend and are not required to be a lodge member.

Our "Coat Drive" date is scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup>. We are still in need of children and teen sized hoodies or sweatshirts or coats. Please ask around at your Church or neighborhood for these items. It is getting close! We will be passing out the coats at the food bank in Bradenton. Volunteers are needed so please let the lodge know if you can help. We will put out sign up sheets. Thank you in advance for helping out!

The holidays are right around the corner! Do you need a venue for a party or family get together? Look no further than our party room! It is beautiful and can accommodate up to 200 people, and has a full kitchen and bar – if you need it. Call the lodge today to reserve your spot at 941-822-6937.

The Manatee River Assisted Living facility is always in need of volunteers on Monday at 10:00 am to do nails for the residents. It's a wonderful time to love on some very deserving people. You will be blessed.

Continue to come daily to support your lodge enjoying food, drinks, games and entertainment. Door opens at 2:00 pm.

**Welcome to our five new members!**