

“Newsletter” – 08/22/26”

Did you know?

How many US Presidents have been members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks? 5 (five). Can you name them?

Warren G. Harding	Marion, OH	Lodge#32
Franklin D. Roosevelt	Poughkeepsie, NY	Lodge #275
Harry S. Truman	Kansas City, MO	Lodge#26
John F. Kennedy	Boston, MA	Lodge #10
Gerald R. Ford	Grand Rapids, MI	Lodge #48

The “Back to School Bash” was a BLAST!! Elk volunteers and members really came through with their “time” and their “dime”. So many children, middle schoolers, high schoolers, parents, guardians, teachers and principal-Flo Daniels, showed up to make this night one to always remember. Special guest City of Palmetto Mayor Dan West delivered a very heartfelt speech to everyone about the importance of saying “NO TO DRUGS” “NO TO ALCOHOL” “NO TO TOBACCO” and all other illegal substances they would be approached to participate in. He impressed upon the students to study hard and make good grades and possibly become our next political government! He was met with a big round of applause! (and even a marriage proposal!) Thank you, Mayor West, for taking of your time to impact these kids lives.

Another special guest that showed up, and was an even bigger hit, Elroy the Elk (Kelly)! Each student got their picture taken with Elroy and received a “SAY NO TO DRUGS” goodie bag filled with informational literature, coloring books, drug free pencils, erasers and toothbrushes. Elk volunteers plastered each student with “SAY NO TO DRUG” stickers before their picture was taken. After their picture was taken each student got to pick out a backpack, stuffed animal, a commemorative 250 birthday of American coin (compliments of Mayor Dan West) and some bubble gum. All the school supplies that the students and teachers needed were purchased by Elk members/donations and given to the school, so they are all set for the 2026/2027 school year. Thank you everyone that gave

cash via the money “jar on the bar”, mailed in a check, Angela who purchased a headset via the Amazon wish list and Jackie who purchased 13 headsets via the Amazon wish list.

Ann and Dee for purchasing all 50 backpacks for the students. All money received went to purchase the school supplies needed for students and teachers. Thank you again everyone who gave and, thank you volunteers Estrellita, Leesia, Ann, Jackie, Dee, Patrick, Kelly for your time and effort in pulling this off! It was a huge event and took a village. Thank you for your help! We also appreciate the Florida State Elks for providing drug free information pamphlets, coloring books, stickers and pencils.

We are very honored and proud to have our Southwest District Vice-President Matt Carter with us tonight. Our Hawaiian Luau, in his honor, will begin at 5:30 pm with Hors d’oeuvres followed by a Hawaiian pork dinner at 6:00 pm. More details will follow in next week’s newsletter highlighting Matt’s speech on the Harry-Anna Investment Fund and the overall event. I do want to thank everyone who worked so hard putting this event together. It was no small task, I’m sure!

It takes many Elk volunteers to make every event happen and if you haven’t volunteered to help out yet - please do so! Volunteers are always needed! Just call the office at 941-722-6937 and tell them you want to help. They will find a place for you!

Have you seen the beautiful Elk out front? Our Exalted Ruler, Curt Mahoney searched and searched and finally found the perfect Elk that encapsulates what the Benevolent and Protective order of the Elks signifies A Peaceful yet Protective Nature. Thank you, Shannon Glasgow and Jackie Seville, for purchasing the beautiful piece of art and thank you Curt and Jeff for installing the Elk and Brady for the donation and spreading of gravel displaying this beautiful creature in the best possible way.

Now we need a name for our new Elk! Name the Elk contest is in full swing, Put your "Elk Name" in the "jar at the bar" and let's see if your "Elk Name" will win. Everyone gets one vote!

New member orientation/initiation is on August 25th at 5:30 pm.