

The Spring meeting of the Georgia Elks Association convened at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, March 5th, 2005 at the Savannah Elks Lodge #183, President Tommy Thompson presiding. Chaplain Joe Jones gave the invocation followed by the presentation of the colors by the Atlanta-Northlake #78 Color Guard. President-elect Vance Rhodes led the Pledge to the Flag.

President Thompson accepted nomination for the offices of the Vice-Presidents from the four districts. The following were nominated: Northwest District; Ernest Penn and Rosalyn Neal: Northeast District; Dr. Henry Ayers: Southwest District; Joe Jones: and Southeast District: Fran Legner. In the contested race for the Northwest District, Rosalyn Neal was elected. The nominees from the Northeast, Southwest and Southeast Districts were elected by a vote of their respective Vice-Presidents.

Following brief announcements from President Thompson, the meeting was suspended until 8:30 A. M. Sunday, March 6th at which time the meeting will reconvene.

The meeting reconvened at 8:30 A. M. on Sunday morning as a joint meeting with the Ladies Auxiliary in attendance. State Chaplain Joe Jones gave the morning invocation followed by the Pledge to the Flag led by President-elect Vance Rhodes.

John Nelson, Exalted Ruler of the Savannah Lodge gave a welcoming address, thanking those in attendance for coming to Savannah and said he looked forward to seeing everyone again.

Secretary Tim Whalen called the roll of officers and of the lodges. All officers of the Association were present. The following Lodges were absent: Columbus-Fort Benning Lodge #111, Fitzgerald Lodge #1036, Dublin Lodge #1646 and Jesup Lodge #2133.

President Thompson introduced the Past State Presidents', the President-elect of the Ladies Auxiliary and the wives of our guests. He then introduced our guest, Frank Palladini, the State President from Florida.

J. W. Wortman introduced our State Sponsor, C. Valentine Bates, P.G.E.R., who then introduced our special guest, James M. McQuillan, G.E.R. Mr. McQuillan spoke of the great participation in the Hoop Shoot program, over 100,000,000 contestants since the inception of the program; the Scholarship programs available to our youth; the Drug Awareness programs; the Army of Hope; the need for good officer recruitment and retention and the Elks National Foundation. He commended Georgia Elks for the good works they do and thanked all for a wonderful weekend. The Grand Exalted Ruler then presented a pin to Bill Holmes, State Chairman for the Elks National Foundation, for Georgia exceeding the G.E.R. goal of \$3.85. Gifts were presented to Mr. & Mrs. McQuillan from the Association and the Ladies Auxiliary. The McQuillans were then excused from the session.

Jim Gibbs and Sandra Able collected donations to the Elks Aidmore Childrens Center. The Ladies Auxiliary was then excused from the Association meeting. The lodges donated \$23,186.50 and the Ladies Auxiliaries donated \$23,688.00 for a total of \$46,874.50. This raised total giving for the year to \$99,982.50.

President's Report: Tommy Thompson said his report had been published in the Georgia Elks News. He said his year was winding down, he has had a good year and it has been fun. He is looking forward to the Annual meeting on Jekyll Island.

President-elect Report: Vance Rhodes said he is preparing for the upcoming year. The Board of Directors has approved his committee chairmen and he stands firm behind the Aidmore program. He urged those present to write their legislators for help in funding with the Aidmore program.

State Sponsor's Report: Val Bates announced the District Deputies designate for the upcoming year. They are Glenn Tolbert, Southeast; Harold Anglin, Southwest; Morgan Stapp, Northeast and Myron Holmes, Northwest. He also recognized Frank Palladini as our visiting guest.

Board of Directors Report: Chairman Jim Pilgrim asked for and received approval on the "Georgia Handbook for State Officers & Committee Chairmen" along with the "Convention Manual" as an appendage to the handbook. He announced the Board would look into changing the dates of the Annual Meeting from May to June. He stressed to the lodges present that they may not send raffle tickets to other lodges across the state without prior approval of the Board. This has been a problem in the past and needs to be stopped.

Aidmore Report: President Jim Gibbs reported Aidmore was in a period of uncertainty due to state funding but was not closing. Adjustments will be made in the upcoming budget and hopefully the state of Georgia will reconsider some of its current policies and procedures. CEO Abe Wilkinson said the "Level of Care" program was not being funded by the state of Georgia. He suggested letters to the editor of local newspapers and contacting local, state and federal legislators to increase funding for our type of program.

Committee Reports:

Americanism: In the absence of chairman John Helgesen, Joe Barto reported that five lodges had sent in entries to the Americanism essay contest. These will be judged and awards made to the winners. Also, plans for the Americanism program at the Annual meeting are well underway. Expect a great program.

Convention: Tim Whalen reported on the upcoming Annual meeting in May as well as the Grand Lodge convention to be held in Reno, Nevada this coming July. He also said that bid forms for upcoming fall and spring meetings must be in the chairman's hands by May 1. These meetings will be voted on at the Annual meeting.

Drug Awareness: Rudy Peterson passed out CDs' to be distributed to over 1200 schools across the state. He is receiving quotes on a new trailer and is planning training sessions at upcoming District Deputy clinics.

Elks National Foundation: We have met and exceeded the Grand Exalted Ruler's goal for this year. Bill Holmes recognized his district chairmen and said 22 of the 31 lodges have exceeded the goal. Georgia is currently 6th in the nation in giving. Georgia is currently around \$6.00 per capita in giving.

Elks National Home: A video of the Home is available if any lodge wishes to show it at indoctrination or other occasions.

Exalted Ruler-elect Academy: This will be the 21st year for the Academy. Doug Patterson encouraged all ERs', Leading Knights, Secretaries and Trustees to attend. There will be some new sessions this year not addressed in the past.

Good Fortune: All tickets have been sold for the year. C. V. Allgood thanked all who support this program.

Raffle: Tickets are in the mail. Myron Holmes said that there has been a good response so far. Tickets are one for \$12.00 or two for \$20.00. The drawing will be held on Saturday night at the Awards Banquet on Jekyll Island in May.

Historical: Doug Patterson asked for donations for the Historical Room at Aidmore.

Hoop Shoot: Warren Moyers reported that we have had great contests this year and thanked all who have helped.

Insurance/Accident Prevention: Self-inspection reports conducted by the individual lodges have helped to cut down on losses the past several years. Pete Somerindyke thanked everyone for his or her good work. This year we have on had four “slip and fall” incidents reported.

Leadership Training: One Hundred percent of Georgia lodges have participated this year. Glenn Tolbert said 5% of Georgia Elks participated in the exam.

Lodge Activities: 20 plus lodges are participating in the lodge bulletin contest. Four lodges are in the Grand Lodge bulletin contest. Henry Ayers also reported that the LaFayette lodge is competing in the Memorial, Community Service and All-American Lodge contests.

Membership: As of last November’s membership reports, 21 lodges have an increase in membership with 131 to initiate. Chairman John Yost said he expects a gain in membership for the state although lapsation continues to be a problem.

New Lodge Development: J. W. Wortman reported that Carrollton, Milledgeville, Douglasville, Gray, Winder and Eastman are potential sites for new lodges.

Public Safety Officer of the Year: Applications are in and will be distributed to committee members soon. Vance Rhodes said the program is going well and the award will be presented in May.

Public Relations: Peggi Tolbert asked that all lodges have an active Public Relations chairman. She said that two mailings have gone out this year showing examples of worthy news articles.

Ritual: The Ritual competition will be held on Thursday morning at the Annual Meeting on Jekyll Island with practice sessions on Wednesday evening. The “Tribute to the Flag” contest and the “Eleven O’clock Toast” contest will be held on Friday afternoon.

Soccer: Larry Capes will continue to hold Soccer workshops around the state. He thanked all lodges for their help this past year and urged all to compete in the upcoming competition.

Technology: Perry Scott said we have had an exciting year with the web site. Changes have been made and housekeeping chores done to clean up the site. We now have a feedback button and a discussion forum available. He asked for updated information on lodge officers and current lodge information for the calendar.

Youth Activities: Curtis Page reported that the Calhoun lodge was 2nd in the nation in Youth Golf. He reminded everyone about the “Student of the Month” and “Student of the Year” programs as well as the upcoming “Youth Week” activities.

Youth Scholarships: J. W. Rutledge announced the district winners and state finalists. The winners were Shivani Gupta, Nicolas Rolander, Rica Cobb, Daniel Kasbohm, Brianna Veenstra, Joshua Ford, Kathy Tran, Christopher Chancey, Dena

Hobbs, Dustin McDuffie, Vanessa del Valle, Ngoc Nguyen, Kelsey Brown, Shane Saunders, Veronica Robinson and Nathaniel Jowers.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: The newly elected Vice-Presidents for the Association were announced. They are Fran Legner, Southeast; Joe Jones, Southwest; Dr. Henry Ayers, Northeast and Rosalyn Neal, Northwest.

Good of the Order: Frank Palladini, President of the Florida Elks Association thanked everyone for their hospitality and a fine weekend. He thanked all those who contributed to the hurricane relief fund over the past year.

Credentials:	<u>District</u>	<u>Registered</u>
	Southwest	30
	Southeast	35
	Northwest	50
	Northeast	37
	Guests	01
	Other	02
	Total	155

Resolutions:

Glenn Tolbert read the resolution.

The colors were retired by the Atlanta-Northlake #78 Color Guard, followed by the benediction given by Chaplain Joe Jones. President Tommy Thompson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Whalen, Secretary
Georgia Elks Association