

Georgia Elks Association
Spring Meeting, Savannah, Georgia
March 4 & 5, 2006

The Georgia Elks Association met at the Savannah Elks Lodge #183 on March 4th, 2006, President W. Vance Rhodes presiding. Chaplain Garry Stephens gave the invocation followed by the Pledge to the Flag led by President-elect J. D. Hall. The colors were presented by the Atlanta-Northlake #78 Color Guard.

President Rhodes introduced the head table, Past State Presidents', Vice Presidents', District Deputies' and guests Don SanSouci, President of the Florida Elks Association and John Boyd, member of the Grand Lodge Public Relations committee. Special Deputy J. W. Wortman introduced State Sponsor C. Valentine Bates, P. G. E. R., who then introduced our Grand Exalted Ruler Louis James Grillo.

In his remarks, Mr. Grillo urged members to take time to give of themselves. He said that members who give of their time and effort keep Elkdom strong and offer a look at a brighter tomorrow. He said that we should remember the past, live in the present and gaze to the future. He also said that we should all work as a team to accomplish our goals.

Abe Wilkinson, CEO of the Elks Aidmore Childrens Center and Jim Gibbs, PSP and President of Elks Aidmore collected \$47,407 from the lodges and auxiliaries for the Childrens Center in donations.

Various gifts were presented to Mr. & Mrs. Grillo by the State Association, various lodges and the Ladies Auxiliary. The Grand Exalted Ruler made a presentation to ENF Chairman Harold Anglin for his work in Georgia achieving the G.E.R. s' goal of \$4.00 per capita and to the Fitzgerald Elks Lodge for 100 years of service. PSP James Lee accepted the plaque for the lodge.

The ladies and guests were dismissed from the session and the roll call of the lodges and officers was taken by Secretary Tim Whalen. The following lodges were absent: LaGrange, Jesup and Dublin. The following officers were absent: Joe Jones, Richard Fradette, Bobby Carter and Bob Carlisle.

President Rhodes opened the floor for nominations for the offices of Vice President for the four districts. The following were nominated: Northeast District – Garry Stephens; Northwest District – E. Piker Penn; Southeast District – Stanley Santee; Southwest District – Clyde Dunn. A unanimous ballot was cast by Secretary Tim Whalen electing the four candidates.

The business meeting was adjourned until 8:30 a.m. Sunday, March 5th, 2006.

The meeting reconvened at 8:30 a.m. March 5th, 2006, President Rhodes presiding. The invocation was given by Chaplain Stephens and the Pledge to the Flag led by President-elect Hall. Secretary Whalen called the roll of the lodges and officers. The following lodges were absent: Fitzgerald, LaGrange, Dublin and Jesup. The following officers were absent: Joe Jones, Richard Fradette, Bobby Carter, John Myers and Bob Carlisle.

Officers Reports

President Rhodes said the Association was doing well. He has published his report in the Georgia Elks News and on the website. He said the G.E.R. had a wonderful trip to Georgia and that all went well. He reported on his recent trip to the Florida Elks Association meeting and his stay at the Florida Elks Youth Camp. He encouraged all Elks to make their communities aware of the good works that we do.

President-elect Hall said that his committee chairmen have been approved by the Board of Directors and that he would have a new committee for Lapsation. He will start a "Sister Lodge" program to help those lodges in need. He also stressed the need to convey the message of membership across Georgia.

State Sponsor & P.G.E.R. Valentine Bates thanked the Georgia Elks for their hospitality to G.E.R. and Mrs. Grillo. He also thanked Vance & Loretta for their hard work as well as the Vice Presidents' and the District Deputies. He thanked John Post for his work as editor of the Georgia Elks News. He announced that P.G.E.R. Arthur Mayer would be his guest at our annual meeting this June on Jekyll Island. Finally, the announcements of District Deputy appointments were made. They are Rosalyn Neal, Northwest; Henry Ayers, Northeast; Fran Legner, Southeast; and John Yost, Southwest.

John Whitley, Chairman of the Board of Directors announced the four year member-at-large on the board will be elected in May. He said the appointment of John Helgesen as editor of the Georgia Elks News had been approved by the board. The next meeting of the board will be at the Elks Aidmore Childrens Center on May 6th at 1:00 p.m.

Tim Whalen, Secretary/Treasurer of the Association reminded the lodges that the per capita dues are due by June 1st, 2006. The dues must be paid by that date for lodges to be eligible to vote at the annual meeting. He said the Association and Charity bank accounts were both in good shape and all accounts were within budget.

Jim Gibbs, President of Elks Aidmore said it was not time to panic; that although we have had to cut back on our program we are still viable and will continue to serve the children of Georgia. He thanked all for the generous donations given on Saturday morning.

Reports of Committees

Americanism: John Helgesen reported that the committee was prepared for its program at the annual meeting. The program will honor the U. S. Military. He reported that 7 lodges had competed in the Americanism essay contest.

Budget: Bill Larimer announced the Budget committee will meet at the Elks Aidmore Childrens Center on May 6th, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

Convention: Tim Whalen reviewed the schedule of events for the annual meeting and the upcoming Grand Lodge convention. He passed out registration forms and motel reservation forms for both meetings.

Disaster Relief: Ed Abel thanked the lodges that had contributed to disaster relief programs over the past year. He said it has been over 110 years since a major storm has hit coastal Georgia and that we should be prepared in the event such a catastrophe occurs.

Drug Awareness: Rudy Peterson spoke about the "coloring book poster & essay" contests and gave the due dates for both. He told about the new locations for the Drug Awareness trailers and gave a progress report for the year on the committees' actions.

Elks National Foundation: Georgia is currently 14th in the nation in giving to the ENF. Georgia has contributed more this year than last year. Harold Anglin thanked those who have contributed this year.

Elks National Home: Doug Patterson said that 13 Georgia Elks had visited the Home over the holidays. He has a video of the campus and current rates available upon request.

ER-elect Academy: The Academy will be held March 18 & 19, 2006 on the Elks Aidmore Childrens Center campus. This will be the 22nd year of this outstanding program. Several new segments have been added this year due to suggestions made by previous participants.

Good Fortune: C. V. Alligood reported that all tickets were sold for the shoot-off again this year. He thanked those who purchased the tickets and made this fund raiser a success.

Raffle: Myron Holmes reported that the tickets had been mailed and the drawing will be held on Saturday night at the annual meeting. There are five prizes and tickets are one for \$12.00 or two for \$20.00.

Georgia Elks News Ads: John Helgesen said that he is trying to clean up the mailing list and asked for lodge help. He passed out lists so that local lodges could strike names of deceased members or names of persons who should not receive the paper.

Government Relations: Tim Whalen spoke on the effects of H.B.1313 concerning eminent domain; H.B. 1388 on tax exempt properties; and on the progress of sales on the Elks prestige license plates.

Historical: Doug Patterson reported on the passing of Carley Zell, 106 years old at the time of his death and the oldest living Elk in Georgia. Mr. Zell was a member of the Brunswick lodge.

Hoop Shoot: Warren Moyers said that 24 lodges competed in the program this year and thanked all for their support. The regional competition will be held in Valdosta later this month.

Insurance/Accident Prevention: Pete Somerindyke commended the lodges on a super year. He urged continued self-inspections on our properties. He said we have had very few claims this year.

Leadership Training: Glenn Tolbert reported 100% lodge participation this year. 349 Elks in Georgia have taken the test. This figure is up from last year.

Lodge Activities: Henry Ayers reminded the lodges of Contests "A" and "B" and urged all to compete. He also spoke about the "Lodge Bulleting" contest.

Membership: Lapsation continues to be a problem. Perry Scott said this must be corrected before we show a gain in membership in Georgia.

Memorial Service: Dr. Henry Ayers will be the guest speaker at this year's Memorial Service at the annual meeting. Waymon Worley is chairman of the committee.

New Lodge Development: J. W. Wortman said there are possibilities in Carrolton, Lake Oconee, Peachtree City, Ellijay and Milledgeville. Phil Bailey told of the importance of new lodges being developed. He urged all to help in achieving new lodges around the state.

Officer of the Year: Ron Anderson has mailed out packets concerning this program. The award will be presented at the annual meeting where the "Officer of the Year" and his family will be present to accept the award.

Ritual: Three teams will compete in ritual competition this June. Team practice will be on Wednesday, June 7th with the competition to follow on Thursday, June 8th. The “Eleven o’clock Toast” contest and the “Tribute to the Flag” contest will be held on Friday, June 9th. Competing lodges for team competition will be Atlanta-Northlake, Dalton and Union City.

Soccer: Larry Capes reported the state had a very good year in soccer. Georgia has one of the best programs in the nation and looks forward to the future in soccer competition.

Technology Task Force: Perry Scott said there is lots of information available on the state website. More and more committees are taking advantage of the site as well as local lodges posting upcoming events.

Youth Activities: The Aidmore Golf Tournament will be held at the Hard Labor Creek State Park on September 15th, 2006. More information will be available at a later date. National Youth Week will begin May 1st, 2006. Local lodges are encouraged to contact their city and county commissioners for proclamations declaring the week.

Youth Scholarship: J. W. Rutledge announced the district winners. Northeast winners were Mengying Jia, Adam Brown, Noc Nhi Lee and Alexander Riehm. Northwest winners were Jessica M. Wyrick, Fei Lian, Samantha N. Bearden and Joshua Childers. Southwest winners were Temesha DeRico, Steven Sumners, Anna Dorminey and Nathan Whitmire. Southeast winners were Cara Burgess, Adam M. Steiner, Victoria L. Bell and Charles C. Lynch.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Good of the Order

Don SanSouci, President of the Florida Elks Association thanked everyone for a great week-end. He said he had a wonderful time and was impressed by the Georgia Elks and the state association.

John Helgesen and Morgan Stapp announced their intentions to run for the 4 year member-at-large position on the Board of Directors.

Chuck Ruth said that the Calhoun Elks Lodge will sponsor a golf tournament on April 1st. Fees will be \$75.00 per person.

Credentials

District	Voting Delegates	Total Delegates
Southwest	20	20
Southeast	27	27
Northwest	34	34
Northeast	33	33
Guests	01	01
Other	01	01
Total	116	116

Resolution

The resolution was read by Glenn Tolbert, Resolutions Committee.

Final Comments

President Rhodes thanked everyone for attending and complemented the Savannah Lodge for a great job. He urged everyone to keep working on membership and lapsation and wished everyone a safe trip home.

The colors were retired by the Atlanta-Northlake Color Guard. Chaplain Garry Stephens gave the benediction and President Vance Rhodes adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Whalen

Tim Whalen, Secretary
Georgia Elks Association