DDGER Frank Burns Holds North DD Clinic at Front Royal 2382

DDGER Frank Burns conducted the first Clinic of the Lodge Year on Sunday, September 20, at Front Royal Lodge 2382. Front Royal ER and North District Deputy Esquire Dennis Henline and Lodge members had the facility in tip-top shape, served a great breakfast, and helped ensure Frank was able to obtain and distribute information at the clinic.

GER Ron Hick’s Theme, Elks Pride—Community Focus, encourages all of us to have confidence in who we are, what we believe, and especially what we do in the Community. But it means more. That same pride, confidence, belief and service are the very characteristics that will attract people in the community to join us as members. With that in mind, Frank invited leaders and experts from around the District and the State to focus on four critical areas where we could advance the theme of Elks Pride—Community Focus:

1. VEA President Geoff Cox introduced efforts to modernize and streamline the assignments and operations of VEA Committees at both the State and District level. The right people were in the room to help ensure that assignments among leaders in the North District are: 1) needed, 2) filled, and 3) fulfilled. Geoff also outlined key areas of his program focus for the year, including “right-sized” membership committees and a 10 percent increase in charity productivity.

2. Justin Reiter, Chair of the VAE Membership Committee, provided a membership progress report for the District and the State, encouraging us to use the tools the Grand Lodge has provided to address multiple aspects of membership management. Frank and Justin will conduct a “Membership and Orientation Intensive” at the January Clinic for the District.

3. Recognizing our District websites are not of consistent quality, we invited Victoria Lynn Johnson of Woodbridge Lodge to present preliminary work she has done in the development of what can be viewed as a “model site” for Lodges that lack websites of their own.

4. SDGER Bob Hinkle, PSDGER Steve Culbert, and VEA Two-Year Trustee and PSP Tim Knotts put on quite a show to help the District grow the Safety Glasses Program. Bob explained the program roots in the Scholarship Program and distributed 144 free glasses to each of the North District Lodges. Steve outlined the procedures he has used to expand the program in Winchester to 2,100 glasses this year. Tim Knotts (right above), a former Industrial Arts Teacher with Fairfax County, put on a “show and tell” on the use of safety glasses in the schools. They stole the show, and so got commitments from the Lodges that will lead to significant growth this year. Bob also helped raise $320 for the Virginia Elks Fund, auctioning and selling “fancy” glasses to a number of those present. Marvin Miller and Frank Burns (right below) model theirs.

Submitted by Frank Burns
Send comments to webmaster@virginiaelks.org