Virginia Elks Association June 2017 Meeting Minutes

Virginia Elks Association, Inc.
Holiday Inn Lynchburg
Lynchburg, Virginia, June 10, 2017

Ronald L. Hicks. PGER
Virginia State Sponsor

Robert Fender-President
Galax Lodge 2212

Tamara F. Symons
Secretary
June 10, 2017
**Call to Order:** Bobby Fender, President, 9:00 a.m.

**Invocation:** Lynn Rutherford-Snow, Chaplain

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Vicki Shiflett, Veterans Chairman

**Head Table Introductions:**
Welcome by Host Lodge, Lynchburg #321; Chaplain Lynn Rutherford Snow; North Carolina Elks State Association President, Michael Bryant; Special Representative Dr. Bob Hinkle who introduced: State Sponsor Ron Hicks, PGER who introduced; GER Mike Zellen

**Roll Call of Officers:** Horace Jones, Secretary
Mr. President, All officers are present, except Legal Advisor, Jay Hicks.

**Roll Call of Lodges:** Horace Jones, Secretary
Mr. President all lodges are present except Northern Neck Lodge 2666, Norfolk 38 and Newport News Lodge 315.

**Report on Credentials:** Horace Jones, Secretary
Present at the meeting are 13 Exalted Rulers, 54 Past Exalted Rulers, 13 Past State Presidents, 1 Grand Exalted Ruler, 1 State Sponsor, Past Grand Exalted Ruler and 2 State Presidents.

**Minutes of the Last Session:** Horace Jones, Secretary
A motion was made, seconded, and carried to dispense with the reading of the June, 11th meeting in Falls Church, VA.

**Secretary’s Report:** Horace Jones, Secretary
The primary responsibilities of the Secretary are:
To attend all meetings of the Association, the Trustees and the PSP Advisory Committee meetings and keep records of the proceedings, preserve all books and documents.

Issues vouchers and sends them to the Treasurer who will write and mail the checks (except the Veterans Account). The Veterans Account will stay with Horace, who was Veterans Chair for about 10 years and he wants to go back and work with those people.

Fourteen years ago, Horace Jones was installed as Secretary of VEA along with David Biggs who was installed as President. Horace thanked the Officers, Trustees and Members for their support. He will be 83 years old in October and it’s time to turn it over to someone younger. He and Sally want to travel. Elk Bear is looking forward to joining Horace for golf next week. He will continue to be active, especially in the Veterans program. It has been a great 14 years and he wished Tammy all the best and asked for the everyone to give her their support. It’s been a great ride.
Treasurer’s Report: Tammy Symons, Treasurer
An accounting was given of all deposits, disbursements and balances of VEA and VEF Accounts (Attached). Copies of Profit and Loss Statements and Balance Sheets for VEA and VEF were available to anyone who wanted one at the Secretary’s desk. (Attached)

Report of Convention Committee – Buddy Deese, Chairman
Final Report is attached.

Welcome Home Program: Wayne Blake PER, Loudoun, Chairman
Started with many meetings and red tape. Met with Case Workers from Veterans Admin. To get names of homeless vets. The VA gets them apartments, but had a great need for furnishings and household supplies. Loudoun joined with Alexandria, Arlington Fairfax, Woodbridge and Front Royal are partnering with Cort Furniture to supply their needs. Have supplied to 21 families. They have received donations and are distributing to needy vets. A movie presentation was shown of Vets who have appreciated our efforts. Joanne Johnson from Cort Furniture rental spoke of their involvement with the program.

Trustee Report: Tim Knotts, PSP, Chairman
At trustee’s meeting, talked with Jeff Allen who takes care of our UBS accounts. After a review of all accounts, they are making money for us. Contributions are being made through ER March. Members were encouraged to donate to Virginia Elks Fund. The Trustees thanked Horace for his hard work over the last 14 years. The Trustees discussed the bylaw change tabled from the October 2016 meeting. Provisions were made for a combined Secretary/Treasurer position and wording changes made in Article 6, Section 1 and Article 7, Section 3. 11 Lodges had not paid their State Assessments. If your Lodge has not paid, you are not in good standing with the State Association or with Grand Lodge. The members of these delinquent lodges will not be given voting credentials beginning with any meeting after this. They will be allowed to vote at this meeting for the last time until assessments are paid. It is possible that your Charter could be pulled as you are not a member of the State Association. If you are not a member of the State Association, you may not be a member of the Grand Lodge by the advise of our Grand Exalted Ruler. Everyone should go back to your lodge and ask if the lodge has paid their Grand Lodge Assessments, State Assessments and PER Dues.

President’s Report: Bobby Fender
Greetings my Brothers and Sisters,

As most of you already know, I unexpectedly lost my mother in June. I (with much appreciated help from my sweetheart April) am now the primary caregiver for my father, who has been critically ill for over a month due to the advanced effects of diabetes and the associated vascular disease.

Because of this, I’m sorry to say, I have been very limited in the performance of the duties to which I pledged to uphold. To all of you, I say “I’m Sorry!”
None the less, our great state association is filled with many dedicated and talented Elks that are keeping things running smoothly around the Commonwealth. To those, I say “Thank You!”

More especially, I want to thank all of our state officers, our trustees, and our State Sponsor, all of whom I’ve had to lean heavily upon.

Since our October meeting, though very limited in my time available away from home, we were blessed to visit a small handful of lodges. We were also present at our wonderfully educational Spring Training Session. Due to my father’s health, unfortunately we were unable to attend the North Carolina Elks Association’s convention in May.

But still blessed, we were able to enjoy the hospitality of the West Virginia Elks at their convention at the Glade Springs resort in Daniels, WV. There we were wined and dined and treated so very exceptionally, it was hard to leave proving Elks are the best people on earth. Our very special friends Ted and Becky Hess were in attendance. They were both doing very well. Ted said to make sure to tell everyone “Hello and he misses us”. I was prepared to kidnap them and bring them back to “East” Virginia. However, even if I were able to survive the fierce defense from the WV Elks, I just did not have the heart to deprive Miss Becky from a trip back to her home in Hinton, WV; which is where they were headed to after the convention ended.

To close, I again thank all Virginia Elks for your continued help and support of April and I as we conclude our current roles and obligations. I want to thank all of you for your dedication to our great state association and the Order of Benevolent and Protective Elks. I also wish to congratulate all of our lodges for the continued great works and top-notch charity that you carry on in our communities. You all are in deed, “Leading By Example!”

Take Care and may God bless you and all good Elks!

Fraternally Submitted,

Robert T. “Bobby” Fender

VEA State President

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**First Vice President’s Report:** Donnie White

**First Vice President Report**

During the first part of the year I attended and volunteered at Richmond Lodge #45’s Hoop Shoot Event and subsequently attended the State Hoop Shoot in Charlottesville. Participation continues to be well attended for this event. Lynn Rutherford-Snow does an exceptional job with this event. I thank her for all the work she puts into organizing the Hoop Shoot for Virginia Elks.

In March I attended the training class held at Charlottesville’s Lodge #389. The training classes were well attended and very informative. The information presented on our Insurance was very informative. For the newly installed Officers in Richmond Lodge #45 the information was eye opening.

In April I attended the Central District Deputy Clinic at Fredericksburg Lodge #875 conducted by District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Milton Werner.

It has been a pleasure to work with our State President and Vice Presidents throughout the year. We are fortunate to have such a great slate of Officers.
Accident Prevention & Risk Management:  Darryl Myers
Your lodge needs to know about Sexual Harassment non tolerance policy. You need a plan for any type of terror attacks. Members should feel safe. Always know who is in charge at all times. Organize a plan of what your lodge can do if something happened.

Internet and Social Media:  Roger Monger, Master-Web Master
Thanked everyone for sending articles and photos. We need to work on your Lodge’s homepage on Elks.org. Roger encouraged everyone to take the time to update your homepage as it is the only chance to make a 1st impression.

Second Vice President’s Report:  Paul Shoemaker

Since are last convention in Oct, I mainly been focusing the National Convention in Reno. Bonnie and I made a site visit to the Grand Sierra Hotel in Reno to start the process of setting up rooms for the state. We are glad to report we asked for 41 rooms and filled 44 at one time we had 49 rooms booked. I think I know everybody in the reservation department making more than I can count making adjustments to rooms, arrival dates, and departure dates. Only 35 days before we leave please no more changes.

In January I attended the South East District Training Clinic and attended the training session in March held at Charlottesville’s Lodge #389, both were well attended and very informative, I attended the State Hoop Shoot in Charlottesville.

In April I attended the South East District Deputy Clinic at Onancock Lodge #1760 conducted by District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Steve Moulton.

It has been a very busy year and I am looking forward to this coming year. I would like to thank the President and Vice Presidents help throughout the year could not have done my job without you.

The following Committee Chairman’s will give a short brief:
Public Relations, Bill Tennis
Government Relations Committee, Bill Tennis
The Virginia Elks Charitable Fund, Geoff Cox
ENF Beverly Hamby will give here brief at the dinner tonight.

Fraternally submitted,
Paul C. Shoemaker, Second Vice President
Virginia Elks Association

Elks National Foundation:  Beverly Hamby, PSP, Chairman
No written report

Public Relations:  Bill Tennis, PSP
Everything you do in your lodge is public relations. Build a public image. Bill thanked his District Chairs. Increase the visibility of your lodge, put your talents to work. Grow your lodge.

Government Relations:  Bob Goolrick, PCGLGF
Attached

Virginia Elks Fund: – Geoff Cox, PSP
ER March. Geoff thanked his district chairs. Pins were explained for donation levels. Investment part of the program is doing well.
Loudoun $100
Don Netschke $1000
Galax $160
Onancock $500
Lynchburg $250
Portsmouth-Chesapeake $100
VA Beach $200
Roanoke $500
Charlottesville $500
Richmond $500
Bedford $302.50
Alexandria $805
Waynesboro $400
Fredericksburg $550
Pulaski $100
Clifton Forge $180
Staunton $250
Front Royal $500
Danville $100
Arlington Fairfax $1000
Suffolk $50
Hampton $140
Petersburg $45

**Third Vice President’s Report:** Frank Burns

**THIRD VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

**VEA – JUNE 10, 2017**

The Vice President will provide summary reports for the following committees: Auditing and Accounting and Indoctrination. He will introduce the Chairs of the ENF Hardship, Safety Glasses and Hoop Shoot Committees for reports. The Chair of the Scholarship Committee will report at the Scholarship Program and Luncheon, which will follow the Business Meeting. The Youth Activities Chair will have provided a report prior to the Third VP Report.

The Third VP attended contributed to two North District Clinics in January and April, 2017, and visited the District lodges for social and program events.

However, the most significant new and emerging activity in the North District has been the Grand Lodge “Welcome Home” Program. The program, open to Lodges in 8 major metropolitan areas in the country, including Northern Virginia, provides household goods and furnishings to formerly homeless Veterans, for whom the Department of Veterans Affairs has provided housing.

Through the leadership of Wayne Blake PER of the Loudoun Lodge and Richard Crawford of the Front Royal Lodge, FIVE separate Lodges in the North District have received $4,500 grants to provide household goods and services to
formerly homeless Veterans. Wayne Blake will provide a detailed report of this program activity separately during the Business Meeting.

The Third VP of the VEA decided to volunteer to serve as the Chair of this project for the Arlington-Fairfax Lodge, applied for and receive a grant for the Lodge, and has worked with Mr. Blake, Ms. Mary Louise Mawn of the Woodbridge Lodge, and others in the North District to coordinate the provision of goods to Northern Virginia Veterans.

Through this program, the VP has participated in providing services to four Veterans; has witnessed the Channel 9 (CBS) interviews with Wayne Blake at the home of a Veteran and at the Loudoun Lodge, publicizing the program in Northern Virginia; has helped receive and store furniture and other goods at the Loudoun Lodge, received as a result of the Channel 9 publicity; and made the beds for the sons of a Veteran who had been sleeping on the floor of their apartment for over two years—mattresses, mattress pads, sheets, pillow cases and comforters, with towels for their showers. It does not get any better than that!

AND, the Alexandria Lodge continues to feed homeless individuals in their Lodge five days a week. ELKS CARE; ELKS SHARE!

Respectfully submitted.

Frank Burns, VP, VEA

**Hardship Committee:** Buddy Deese
Encouraged everyone to apply for ENF Scholarships for children and grandchildren of deceased or disabled Elks.

**Hoop Shoot:** Lynn Rutherford-Snow, Chairman
Hoop Shoot had another successful year. Two children to compete at National Level: Taylor Donald-Pulaski, Traylon Beamer-Martinsville. Taylor tied for 8th and Traylon tied for 4th.

**Indoctrination:** Ron Hicks, PGER
No written Report

**Youth Leadership and Activities:** Wayne Blake
Wants all lodges to bring in Fire and Rescue, Sheriff’s Dept etc for Safety Event for Children. Also encouraged to participate in Toys for Tots.

**Scholarship and Safety Glasses:** Bob Hinkle, SDGER
Attached

**Fourth Vice President’s Report:** John Owen
June 6, 2017

Report of 4th Vice President John M Owen activity since the Fall 2016 convention
Visited Lynchburg Lodge #321 and Galax Lodge #2212.
Participated in the Bedford Lodge annual memorial service.
Participated in the Bedford Lodge, Southwest District and VEA state hoop shoots.
Attended the VEA training session in Charlottesville.
Attended the Southwest District Deputy Clinic in Roanoke.
Participated in a presentation of an American Flag to Bedford Town Council to be flown over the Elk Cemetery in the Town of Bedford. The previous flag had to be retired due to wear and tear.
Completed repairs and maintenance at the VEA Youth Camp.
Handed out ice cream to attendees at the Virginia Veterans Care Center Spring Carnival.
Participated in a tour and lunch for Veterans from the Salem Veterans Care Center and Hospital.

Committees Reports to be given at the convention business meeting:

- **Membership & Lapsation** – Justin Reiter
- **National Veterans Services** – Vickie Shifflett
- **Drug Awareness** – Tim Mead

**Americanism:** Bob Ward, Chairman
Attached

**Drug Awareness:** – Tim Mead, Chairman

**Golf:** Leah Powell, Chairman
Report to be given at Banquet

**Membership:**

**Ritualistic Committee:**

**Training Seminar:**

**Convention Final Report:** Henry Deese, PSP, Chairman

**Income**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resolutions:** John Rosenberger, PSP
See attached

**Announcements:**

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Submitted by Tammy Symons

Send comments to webmaster@virginiaelks.org