



Hour of Eleven

Rochester Elks #2225

Making a Difference for 44 Years!

August 2005



From Your Exalted Ruler

Hi Everyone,

Well, it's that time of month when I sit down and speak to you and this month I may not have that many nice things to say.

I have just returned from Reno, Nevada where I attended the National Convention of Elks. For those of you whom are not aware of what this means, let me explain briefly that all Exalted Rulers from every Lodge throughout the United States are required (by the Grand Lodge) to attend. Each individual Lodge pays for the majority of costs incurred by the Exalted Ruler and spouse. It lasts 4 days, with meetings daily. At these meetings, reports of previous yearly activities are given, the "old" Grand Exalted Ruler leaves office, and the "new" Grand Exalted Ruler is installed. It is just like a political convention with marching bands, etc. There are also resolutions to be voted on.

We were encouraged to go home and get new members, because our membership was falling rapidly. But, I question the fact that it takes 3 months to become a member. I was recently asked by my friend, "what takes so long", and my answer was that he had to be posted in the newsletter, and then investigated. Do you know how silly I sounded? But, according to Grand Lodge statutes, there is no room for change. What is wrong with taking one month to "investigate" my friend that I have known for many years.

Also, in meeting many, many Exalted Rulers all over the United States, I have found that the majority of us are all struggling to survive in our Lodges. We have a faith and commitment for all the good work that we as volunteers do. But, the expenditures of the Grand Lodge are never to be questioned. They receive paychecks, expense accounts, and pensions. I don't say that they don't deserve it, but I would like to see a little "struggle" on their part.

I don't mean to discourage you, but rather to inform you. I will also send a copy of this letter to the Grand Lodge.

Change is required by all in order to survive!!!!

Sandy Catanese

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* www.rochesterelks2225.org *



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