

To all Virginia Elk Lodges:

Good News! The Division of Charitable Gaming and the ABC Department have recently reversed their previous ruling that the "Queen of Hearts" game is illegal in Virginia. They have now concluded that the Queen of Hearts game is consistent with the definition of a raffle under Section 18.2-340 of the Code of Virginia, provided that the game is conducted by a charitable organization under their established guidelines and complies with the other applicable provisions of the Charitable Gaming Law.

In the past, the Queen of Hearts game has been used by many of our Lodges to increase revenue for the Lodge. Also, since the winner is required to be present to receive the full payout, the game can actually encourage attendance at Lodge Meetings and/or other events at which the tickets are drawn, as the prize fund continues to grow.

In order to conduct the Queen of Hearts game, a Lodge must hold a raffle permit from the Division of Charitable Gaming that specifically includes the game. This will mean amending any current raffle permit by filing a Charitable Gaming Permit Amendment on the form provided by the Division. You may obtain this form by calling the Division Office at (804)225-2598.

The basic guidelines for the Queen of Hearts game require that the game must be purchased from a company currently registered as an approved supplier with the Division of Charitable Gaming. The Division has also set the required pay-outs from the game at 60% to the winner, 30% to the Lodge, and 10% to the State Association. From the 10%, the State Association must donate 8% to charity and 2% may be used for operating expenses. In addition, standard record keeping and reporting to the Division are required. For more information, please see the enclosed Guidelines and Basic Rules of the game.

The VEA Board of Trustees has determined that each Lodge participating in the "Queen of Hearts" game may designate whether the 8% they pay to the State Association for charitable purposes will go to the Virginia Elks Youth Camp or to the Virginia Safety Glass Program, or both. If not otherwise designated by the Lodge, then the amount earmarked for charitable purposes will be deposited into the Virginia Elks Charity Fund. The VEA will use the other 2% to help cover Association operating expenses.

While participation in this game is completely up to the individual Lodges, it is expected that a number of Lodges will take advantage of this opportunity to help increase revenues and attendance, which can, in turn, be a win-win-win situation for the Lodges, the Association, and our major State Projects.

Sincerely

Ronald L. Hicks, Trustees Chairman,
Virginia Elks Association