

## Arlington-Fairfax 2188 Supports Martinsburg VAMC Carnival

Seven Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge 2188 volunteers traveled to the VA Medical Center, Martinsburg, West Virginia, on September 19, 2015, to participate in their annual carnival. Each year the VA Medical Center Voluntary Service hosts a carnival for the veteran patients, family members, and volunteers. Several volunteer organizations participate in the event to provide food, games, entertainment, and a carnival type atmosphere to everyone's delight. This has become an annual event for the Elks Lodge 2188 Veterans Committee, as well and many of the long term patients look forward to our visit.

Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge 2188 provided pork barbecue, cole slaw, baked beans, chips, sodas, and bottled water to carnival participants. The food is prepared at the Lodge and transported to the VA Medical Center by volunteers. The food is heated on an outdoor grill and served to the veteran participants and their families. The homemade barbecue is always a big hit with carnival participants. Approximately 150 veterans, family members, VA staff, and volunteers, enjoyed the food provided by the Lodge.

This year in addition to providing food, Elks Lodge 2188 hosted a ring toss game for the veteran patients. Pictured are Patti and Jerry hosting the Elk Ring Toss. Participants had to hook a ring on the elk antlers to win coupon books for prizes. Several other games were offered



at the carnival; however, the Elk Ring Toss was the most popular. PER Patti Graves and Lodge Member Jerry Sall hosted the Elk Ring Toss game and several other volunteers questioned them about having more fun than the game participants. Participants were the proud winners of more than \$300 in coupon books and some of the more experienced “tossers” walked away with pockets bulging with coupon books! A great time was had by all at the Elks Ring Toss!

This year we were accompanied by the Lodge Veterans Committee partners from the Knights of Columbus, Dick Owen and Carroll Glass. The Knights of Columbus generously donated buns for the carnival. Dick and Carroll are pictured here manning the grilling operations. They were instrumental in the success of this year’s carnival.



Many thanks go to the Lodge 2188 Veterans Committee, Lodge volunteers, and Knights of Columbus volunteers, for coming out to support this event. Pictured are (left to right) volunteers Linda Gardner, Dale Crisp, Maria Jordan, and Exalted Ruler Brenda Slingerland. Ken Hensley was busy manning the coolers and did not get in the picture.



Submitted by Linda Gardner, via Patti Graves

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