

# Virginia Elks Youth Camp Newsletter

May, 2011

By Michael Haynes, President

Just wait until you see the “new” kitchen in the dining hall at the Camp. I visited the Camp yesterday (Sunday) and was really impressed. The installation of the tile floor, I mean real tile, has been completed. Not only the floor was covered but one row up the walls of the kitchen to make it really look completed. Dave Benoit, Past Youth Camp President, was on site and along with help from our Camp Ranger, Mike Journell, was putting the food serving wall back up that had to be removed to get the kitchen equipment out for the installation of the new floor. Most of the equipment had been moved back to the kitchen from the dining hall. A lot of smaller equipment and supplies remained to be moved back to the kitchen and was spread out over the dining hall floor and tables. Bonnie Journell will help move these items back into the kitchen to their right place. Looking into the kitchen you see right away the new commercial refrigerator, the new deep fryer and the new stainless steel back on the wall behind the stove and other cooking equipment. Folks it now has the look and feel of a commercial kitchen. Many thanks go to Buster Shaner for spearheading this face lift and to Dave and Mike and others for the many hours of work it took getting this job completed. If you did not know we were being asked by the Health Department inspectors to get this project completed.

In other news our Camp Director, Susie Keller, is starting to look for staff for this coming summer season. She and I will be interviewing prospects this next month or two to staff the camp. We are looking forward to a great camping season; it is up to the local lodges to send us campers. The more campers we have will determine the success of this camping season. If you as a lodge needs assistance in raising funds for the campers you send get in touch with our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Jay Bonnel. Jay has developed a way to raise funds for the Norfolk Lodge so that they do not use any Lodge funds to support the number of campers they send each year. They not only send their quota but nearly always send more campers than their quota. Jay will be happy to share his secret with you and to quote him “not having the necessary funds to send your quota of campers is not a valid reason for not sending campers.”

Talking to Mike Journell yesterday he related to me that many lodges have set up weekends for maintenance at the Camp. Mike has quite a few jobs in his job jar that your lodge members can help him with so set up your spring trip to the camp with Mike and he will put you to work during the day and help you eat and party at night. He was telling me how some of the Lodges work and play while at the camp that made me want to spend more time at the Camp.

All we do “is for the Kids.”