

Virginia Elks Youth Camp Newsletter
June, 2011
By Michael Haynes, President

The Executive Committee of the Youth Camp held a meeting Saturday, May 14th at the Youth Camp. At this meeting we appointed Georgianna Knotts as the Vice President from the North District and John Cannon from the Alexandria Lodge as Treasurer of the Camp. We now only have open the Vice President position from the Central District which we hope to fill very soon; so if you know or you know of anyone that is interested please have them to contact the Camp Secretary, Bob Ward. Several very important decisions were made by the Committee at this meeting concerning the future camp season and camp expenditures.

I did not believe my eyes or ears when I arrived at the camp as volunteer workers were everywhere. The Charlottesville Lodge had many Elks working like beavers all over the camp. They were working on the Charlottesville Cabin, in the dining hall, in the kitchen, cutting down trees, repairing the basketball goals, working in the bathhouses, working on the main dining hall electrical breaker box and other jobs that I cannot remember. Well over 20 members of the lodge were at the camp. The cooks in the kitchen fed the Executive Committee lunch as well as all the workers. Prior to lunch the dinner bell rang and all workers came to the dining hall for the Ritual for the Flag Retirement Service where we all participated in the service to retire sixteen service worn American Flags. I had never seen this Ritual before and was really pleased to be a part of the ceremony. It was impressive.

I must say a word or two about our revamped kitchen. It is beautiful. The new ceramic tile floor, the new double stainless steel refrigerator, four burner griddles, deep fryer, and the stainless steel wall covering behind all of the cooking utensils all make the kitchen look wonderful. The bathhouses are having new sinks and counter tops installed that will be a great improvement. The camp is really looking good and big improvements from past years are being completed. Now we need you to send campers. It is our hope that we will have many more young campers attend the camp this summer and it is up to you to make this happen.

Other Lodges have time to work on their cabins this spring prior to camping season so let's get it done. Mike, our Camp Ranger, has other maintenance that needs volunteers to complete so let's get personnel to the camp to make sure the camp is completely ready by June 26th the first day on summer camp.

My personal thanks go to Dave Benoit, Past Camp President. Dave has been at the camp many weekends this spring and even during good weekends during late winter working and supervising much of the work that was done. He was instrumental in making sure the waterfront storage building was built, the kitchen work was completed and spearheading the massive work the Charlottesville Elks have been able to accomplish. Thanks Dave!