

The Green Valley Elks Lodge #2592 is located in a small Arizona community of approximately 15,000. The members of our lodge are very cognizant of their obligation to the community and are involved in many support activities. To make the entire community aware of the good work our lodge does, Brother Frank Sartanowicz conceived an idea to build this awareness.

The concept was to honor the 343 firefighters that died in New York on 9/11/01 and to show appreciation for the work our local firefighters on a daily basis. Plans were made to serve 9/11 Memorial Dinners to all the fire stations in our community on 9/11/04.

Our local newspaper was contacted and published a story lauding the concept. Volunteers were organized and with the lodge and some local businesses absorbing the cost of the food, 5 fire stations were served complete turkey dinners. The success of the event and the resulting publicity encouraged Exalted Ruler Chuck Frey to initiate plans for 9/11/05. He appointed Frank Sartanowicz to form and chair a 9/11 Memorial Dinners Committee for 9/11/05.

Frank Sartanowicz and the committee seeing the vast potential of this concept decided to challenge all 41 Elks Lodges in Arizona to espouse the idea and participate in their communities. A brochure was prepared and sent to all the Elks Lodges in Arizona. It explained the concept, how to participate, and showed the potential benefits to the lodges participating our Exalted Ruler Tom Curran even discussed the idea at the Arizona Elks State Convention. As a result at least 10 lodges in Arizona joined in and served dinners to about 35 fire stations throughout the state. All have said they plan to do it again on 9/11/06.

The success of 9/11/05 has given me hope that in 9/11/06 this project will spread throughout the USA and that a majority of the lodges in Elkdom will participate and make it an Elks major project.

In Arizona the DDGER and the Arizona Elks State President have gotten behind the concept and are presenting the idea throughout the state Elks Lodges. If the Grand Lodge would do the same throughout the USA, dinners served on 9/11/06 could number in the thousands.

The potential publicity for the Elks is unlimited. If I could show that a significant number of lodges will be participating we could get national TV, radio, and newspaper coverage. This publicity would show the communities the good work that Elks do. Also it could encourage potential membership from a wide pool (i.e., young firefighters).

This brochure reflects the planning, execution, and publicity results of the Green Valley Elks Lodge #2592... 9/11 Memorial Dinners..... In 2004 and 2005.

Frank Sartanowicz
Chairman - 9/11 Memorial Dinners
Green Valley Elks Lodge # 2592