



Lake Hopatcong Elks
Lodge #782
Meetings
1st and 3rd Tuesday
(973) 398-9835



January 2024

CHARITY



JUSTICE



BROTHERLY LOVE



FIDELITY



Exalted Ruler's Message

A Fraternal Organization
Join Elkdom's Action Team
Make Your Friend a Member

2023

Your next best moment is just waiting for you to discover it.

2024



And just like that poof 2023 is gone. Where did it go? Like any other year it was full of beautiful and sorrowful memories. We held our annual memorial service for our departed members on December 3rd. Thank you to everyone who took part in the service and to **Linda Gathen PDD** for her the extra touches that makes our service a beautiful tribute our departed. I truly believe we hold the nicest memorial in the state! Thank you to the Antlers for decorating our Lodge Tree that along with the festive holiday windows treatments they were the perfect touches to our hall for the season.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Holiday Appeal program. Through your Generosity and ENF Grants obtained by **Linda Gathen PDD** in addition to her outreach and coordination with schools and churches, organizing and distributing the families to you our members we were able to provide children's wish lists of gifts and feed 100 Families during the toughest time of the year. Let me say I am once again in Awe of our Lodge from packing boxes to adopting families I asked you all to answer the call for help and you jumped to action, Thank you all!!! A special thanks goes out to our elves, who went out for extra shopping, and wrapping **Debi, Vicki and Nancy**, I know they were in the center of making sure Santa's list was checked twice and nothing was missed.

We had another successful Breakfast with Santa, I can't thank those you worked this event enough, especially those in the kitchen that keep the food flowing. The children are so excited to see Santa and we added Frosty this year, what a treat! I heard the Doo-Wop Holiday Party was amazing, I am sorry I missed it! On the 21st the Special Children's Committee had a holiday book reading with Santa from 5-7 it was another great event for the special children of our community, Thank you Wayne and Heidi.

I am sorry I missed a few events this month, sadly they truly are some of my favorites. Thank you all for your prayers and well wishes! I am on the mend and getting around slowly. I really appreciate all the calls and texts checking in on me, I am grateful for every one of you!

We have so many fun filled events coming up please check the newsletter. I know we have already started working on Leap in the Lake!!! While we have all been overwhelmed with rain and probably had enough, I am hopeful that we have enough water to leap the lake is looking a little muddy right now. 😊

My challenge this month start is one for the year, start a gratitude jar. Each day or week, you write down one thing for which you're grateful and put it into the jar where they collect as a reminder of the good things in your world. At the end of 2024 you can pull out the notes and read all the amazing things that happened this year. I know it sounds a little corny, but we are Elks and we do so much good, and I want you all to remember that and your heart will be full! You can make your promise to eat better, quit smoking, exercise more, or drink less. These are all resolutions we have made at one point or another and they are still good resolution, but a Gratitude Jar provides a simple way to cultivate the habit of being mindful of the good things in your life. Abraham Lincoln once said! "The best way to predict the future is to create it" Well you have 366 new days and 366 New chances to create your future! 2024 is a blank book start writing!

Thank you again for everyone who made 2023 a huge success for our lodge. As always please keep in mind those serving home and aboard who afford us our freedoms. Bless our Vets, special children, our youth who look to bring a brighter tomorrow and ALL OF YOU! My wish is for everyone to have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Fraternally Yours,
Samantha P. Martin, Exalted Ruler

2023-2024 LODGE OFFICERS



Exalted Ruler	Samantha Martin 201-214-6925
Est. Leading Knight	Peter Appaluccio, PDD 973-726-7818
Est. Loyal Knight	Michael Tresca, PER
Est. Lecturing Knight	Lauren Greed 973-668-6733
Esquire	Matthew Winnans, PVP 201-572-8297
Chaplain	Walter Wurster
Inner Guard	Sheila Speroni 973-229-8254
Tiler	Lisa Rovito, PER 201-978-7218
Treasurer	Linda Gathen, PDD 973-398-2097
Secretary	Barbara Tokar, PER 201-207-7545
Lodge Photographer	Linda Kline
1 Year Trustee	John Shaw, PER
2 Year Trustee	Sean MacMillan
3 Year Trustee	Tom Brown, PDD
4 Year Trustee	Salliema Johnson, PER
5 Year Trustee	Rick Gathen, PSP

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Debi Werner, *Chairperson*
Victoria Angle
Alex Banos
Sue Bruyere
Dawn Crocetti
Derya Harquail
Nancy Loizou
Christine Redden
Debbie Sobierajski
Kimberly Tweed
Madelyn Walrod

PLANNING A FUNCTION?

OUR HALL IS AVAILABLE
TO RENT FOR ANY FUNCTION
FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL DEBI AT 973-668-9302

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Accident & Prevention	Rick ter Linden 972-271-1804
Activities	Patsy Schmidt 973-975-2325
Americanism	Patricia Carley 973-534-0168
Antlers	Lisa Rovito, PER 201-978-7218
Auditing & Accounting	Kathleen Caffrey, DDD 973-534-8283
Bar Chair	Nancy Loizou 973-632-1129
Community Activities	Patty Zdichocki 201-723-6462
Convention	Linda Gathen, PPD 973-398-2097
Drug Awareness	Dee Krowl 973-390-0638
Elks National Foundation	Pete Appaluccio, PDD 973-736-7818
Flag Day	Linda Gathen, PDD 973-398-2097
Fraternal Committee	Linda Gathen, PDD 973-398-2097
Government Relations	Barbara Tokar, PER 201-207-7545
Grounds Maintenance	Trustees
Hall Rental	Debi Werner 973-668-9302
Hoop Shoot	Tom Brown, PDD 973-919-5395
Indoctrination	Rick Gathen, PSP 973-398-2097
Investigation	Cory Schmidt 973-440-7393
In-House Caterer	Debi Werner 973-668-9302
Lapsation	Barbara Tokar, PER 201-207-7545
Lodge Activities	Patsy Schmidt 973-975-2325
Membership	Barbara Tokar, PER 201-2077545
Maintenance Committee	(Reports to the Trustees) Alex Banos, Chris Loizou & Waler Wurster
Memorial Day	Linda Gathen, PDD 973-398-2097
Motorcycle	Walter Wurster 973-420-8165
Parades	Linda Gathen, PDD 973-398-2097
PER Association	Rick Gathen, PSP 862-324-2412
Pole Barn	Red Curry
Public Relations	Jennifer Appaluccio, VP 973-222-4547
Softball/Cornhole Tournament:	Ricky Gathen

RELIEF COMMITTEE

Samantha Martin, Exalted Ruler	201-214-6925
Peter Appaluccio, PDD, Leading Knight	973-736-7818
Michael Tresca, PER, Loyal Knight	
Lauren Greed, Lecturing Knight	973-668-6733
Linda Gathen, PDD, Treasurer	973-398-2097
Barbara Tokar, PER	201-207-7545
Ritual	Heidi McDonnell, PDD 973-545-1557
Scholarship	Jennifer Appaluccio, VP 973-222-4547
Sickness & Distress	Lauren Greed 973-668-6733
Soccer Shoot	Tom Brown, PDD 973-919-5395
Special Children	Heidi McDonnell, PDD 973-545-1557 Wayne McDonnell, PER 973-841-9845
Veterans	Ed Parrillo 973-398-6677
Army of Hope	Matthew Winnans, PVP 201-572-8297
Youth Activities	Tom Brown, PDD 973-919-5395

01	Rose Ann Boyle
01	David Ferrara
01	William G Hirschfeld
01	John McCarthy
01	Glen Roberts
02	James Buckley
02	Gary Moore
02	Mark Vandling
02	Madelyn Walrod
03	Josephine D La France
05	Michael A Champa
06	Brian Falzarano
06	John Matthes
07	Karen Ann Alonge
07	William R Byles
07	Martin Flanagan
07	Henry J Mason Sr
07	Matthew Winnans
08	Joseph Giambattista
08	Anthony Massari
08	Kenneth Matzek
08	James Perrette
08	Robert Rossi
08	Michael W Thomas
09	Karl Petr
09	Raymond Ricciardi
09	Lori Strom
10	Ann MestrAndrea
10	Kenneth M Sterzer
11	Gail Bennett
11	Caroline Glucksman
11	Timothy McQuaid
12	Thomas Brown Sr
12	Paul Macchia
13	Coley Campbell
14	Veronica A Blewitt-Bellack
14	Shawn Davis
14	John Wilkinson
15	George F Batelli
15	Charles B Bell
15	Walter Bell
15	Paul T Donnarumma
16	Gregory S Dash
16	Joseph T Doyle Jr
16	Virginia Slater
17	Jacqueline C Buckley
17	Karen Porter
18	William R Heiser
18	Eric Keiper
18	Kimberly Tweed
20	Jennifer Appaluccio
20	John J Stier
21	Rockie Fuller
21	Sandra A Harding
21	Deborah Werner
22	Brian M DeVries
22	Michael J Tresca
24	Deborah Ambrose
24	William O'Brien
26	Jeanette A Czipo
27	Declan Beere
27	Sharon Kepler
27	James McDevitt
27	Carlos A Rojas
27	Carole Terantino
28	James S Miller
28	Michaela Winnans
29	Edward Barton
29	Bernard Curry
29	Jeremy S Heiskanen
30	James Glicos
30	Elizabeth Mertens
31	Annette Kouyoumjian
31	Thomas D Sellaro

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JANUARY MEMBERS



“Elks Give from the Heart”

Randy P. Shook

GRAND EXALTED RULER

2023-2024

“We Are The Elks.”



Final Stretch of Lodge Year Starts In January

Wanda and I want to wish each of you a very happy new year as we welcome in 2024. New Year's Day is a time when we reflect upon the events of the past year and plan for the upcoming year. New resolutions are made to improve health, diet, and other ambitions. For us as Elks, it should be our resolution to improve our Lodge and our Order.

January is the beginning of the last quarter of the Lodge year. Get your membership retention and arrears program into full stride. Have your committee reach out to delinquent Members. This personal contact could very well bring that Member back into our folds. Remind them of why they joined and how much they mean to the Lodge. It would be great for your Lodge to have a +1 membership gain in 2024.

You and your Lodge Officers should be reviewing how and where you stand with your Local Lodge goals for the year. Should you see you are falling short, make January, February, and March your last big push to meet those goals. Your Lodge has all the assets needed to meet those goals with the right plans. Use your Past Exalted Rulers Association, Board of Directors, and Lodge committees to analyze what is needed to declare victory.

This is also a great time to review your hard-working Members and decide who deserves an award for the great work done for your Lodge. Some of the awards you can present to a Member and Officer who has done so much to promote the Order are Elk of the Year, Officer of the Year, and Citizen of the Year. There is no better way to say thank you for the hard work and dedication they have demonstrated. You may involve other Members to promote the good work that your Lodge does in your community. Finally, the Auditing and Accounting Committee should review Lodge books and report at the last meeting of the month. Remember “Elks Care – Elks Share” and “We Are THE Elks.”

God Bless our great Order, our troops, and the United States of America.

“Elks Care - Elks Share.”

HOUSE COMMITTEE

~ HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR GREAT MEMBERS~

January 2024 is looking like a great & busy year ahead of us. This month we have our Veterans Roast Beef Dinner held the 20th. On the 21st we will be holding TAM (class held for bartenders, house members and any member who would like to be a elk bartender) class starting at 8:00 am. PLEASE!! **ALL** elk bartendars, check your card to make sure it is up to date.

Tho January may seem quite, I would like to share a few exciting events coming up so you can mark your calendars February SUPERBOWL February 11th. Please come join us for a fun day with lots of food at half time. If you are coming please bring a dish to share. All are welcomed.

We have a 2ND ANNUAL PRE-LEAP IN THE LAKE PIG ROAST fundraiser. Thanks to Smokin' Schmidty's BBQ who will put out the biggest and best spread ever. More details will be posted soon. Thank you **Cory and Patsy** for hosting such a great event.

On February 28 our Antlers will be holding their 2nd Annual Mootz Night. Make your own mozzarella. Please look for more details in this newsletter. Sign up early because they sold out quick last year!

MARCH DATES TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2ND LEAP IN LAKE • 9TH ST PATTY'S DINNER DANCE W/LIVE MUSIC • 24TH BREAKFAST WITH EASTER BUNNY

Like I said earlier, it is a busy 2024!! Anyone who would like to be involved in helping with our events we would totally wElkome you. Please call Debi at 973-668-9302.

ALWAYS LOOKING FOR FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER COOKS. WE HAVE A GREAT GROUP OF COOKS AND ALWAYS LOOKING TO EXPAND OUR LIST!! IF INTERESTED PLEASE CALL ME AT 973-668-9302 DEBI.

THANK YOU TO HOUSE COMMITTEE FOR ALWAYS DOING A GREAT JOB

Debi Werner, House Committee Chairperson

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 5, 2024 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER WILL ONLY BE SERVED IN THE MAIN HALL & TAKE OUT. THERE WILL NO NO MORE BAR SERVICE FOR FOOD. THE BAR WILL BE OPEN.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS



Hope all our members have been enjoying this holiday season. Continued prayers are with our **Exalted Ruler, Samantha Martin**, who is recovering from a successful surgery. It was great to see you back at the lodge in attendance of our PER Christmas party!

It is with deepest sympathy that we announce the passing of our very own, **Life Member, Joseph Pennino, PDD**, 88 years old and member for 57 years. Our thoughts and prayers are with his entire family and partner, **Diane LaPreta**. Your presence and support will be sorely missed at our events, dinners and lodge activities. May you rest in eternal peace.

Condolences on the passing of our members: **Edward Kelly**, 60 years old and member for 23 years. **Arthur Wilson**, 60 years old and member for 3 years. Life Member, **John Holinko**, 91 years old and member for 52 years. You and your families are all in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. To our absent members.

Keeping our member and dear friend to all, **Patsy Schmidt**, in our hearts as her sister, JoAnn Marucci, undergoes major surgery. Praying for success and recovery without further treatment. Also keeping our member, **Amanda Gladish**, in our prayers after the sudden death of her brother, Carl Gladish III. We are so sorry for your loss.

To our members who are home and healing from the hospital, surgeries and procedures: **Rick Gathen, PSP, Vicki Angle, Joyce O'Donnell, Kim Douglas** - our best wishes to you all for a complete recovery. Prayers to **Derya and Sean McMillan** as their father continues his battle with illness. Keeping our VET, **Frank Schmitt**, and also **Kathy Venier** in our thoughts as they both recover from recent sickness.

Finally, it is with great pleasure to announce **Kathleen Caffrey, DDD and Matt Winnans, PVP** will be welcoming a grandchild into this world in 2024. Congratulations and best wishes to your growing family!

For all our members who are experiencing sickness or grief during this time we are here for you. Please contact me at 973-668-6733 if you know of any members who are in need of our support. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Lauren Greed, *Committee Chairperson*

HAPPY NEW YEAR

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNERS

January 5, 2024
Pasta Variety
Sausage, Puttanesca, Smoked Gouda,
Pink Vodka Sauce & Marinara

January 12, 2024
Creamy Chicken Parm Over Linguine
With Mushrooms

January 19, 2024
Baked Ham

January 26, 2024
Beef Bourguignon with Mashed Potatoes



Well here we go with a start of a new year. I hope and pray that the world will start to respect people's choices. This past year was a tough year for the Lake Hopatcong Elks members as we lost many we held dear to our hearts. Beginning with **Tom Rovito**, who we all knew put smiles on everyone's faces to the recent loss of **Joe Pennino** who always had a story or an idea. There were many that passed in between that the lodge misses dearly, but these hit home.

When I was asked to chair the Veterans Committee by **Jerry Cook** (rest in peace) I was new to the Elks and the way things went. I asked that Joe help me with the protocol for the initial year. He agreed. It was a comfortable transition and that was because of Joe and his guidance. He was a great elk and a good friend to me. He will now rest in peace with his wife, Marion and his daughter, Debbie. Rest easy, brother. Please mark your calendars for the Annual Roast Beef Dinner scheduled for January 20, 2024. Ticket will soon be available. I hope to see many familiar faces and new ones too. Wishing you all a blessed and Happy New Year!

Ed Parrillo, *Veterans Committee Chairperson*

VETERANS COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

(All meetings are scheduled for Wednesdays @ 6:30pm)

January 10th
February 14th
March 13th
April 10th
May 8th
June 18th



July 10th
August 14th
September 11th
October 9th
November 13th
December 11th

Embracing 2024 with Enthusiasm: A Year of Growth and Community Impact for Lake Hopatcong Elks

As we bid farewell to the old and usher in the new, the Lake Hopatcong Elks Lodge is brimming with optimism and excitement for the promising year that lies ahead. The energy is contagious as we reflect on our accomplishments and set our sights on new milestones.

Thriving Membership and Booming Business

One of the hallmarks of our success is the continuous growth of our Lodge membership, which is steadily increasing at an impressive rate of 10% each year. We are delighted to announce that our Lodge family has surpassed the 700-member mark, a testament to the inviting atmosphere and camaraderie that defines our Elks Lodge.

Our Hall rentals have experienced a remarkable surge, with bookings for 2024 filling up rapidly. The strategic efforts of our House Committee Chairperson, Debbie Werner, have been pivotal in this success. Through diligent planning, effective advertising, and offering top-notch facilities at an affordable price, we've created an environment that attracts events and celebrations.

Special recognition goes to Bar Chairperson Nancy Loizou and her dedicated team of bartenders for their outstanding service. With a commitment to providing quality beverages at reasonable prices, they have played a crucial role in enhancing the overall experience for our members and guests.

Commitment to Excellence: Events and Initiatives

The dedication of our House Committee is unwavering, evidenced by the fantastic events lined up for 2024. Their hard work, coupled with the remarkable leadership of Chairperson Debbie Werner, has been instrumental in propelling our Lodge to new heights. Our Lodge Ritual Team is gearing up for the State Championship in February, a testament to their commitment to excellence. Additionally, Lisa Rovito, Bob Ricker, Dee Krowl, and Tom Brown are diligently preparing for another record-breaking year for our Path and Peer Drug Prevention conferences, essential initiatives for the well-being of our area students.

We are proud to announce the 14th Annual Leap in the Lake event on March 2, 2024, where we anticipate making a substantial \$16,000 donation to our local Public School Special Needs programs. Your continued support will help us break yet another record in charitable contributions.

Exciting Celebrations and Community Outreach

March 9th marks our much-anticipated St. Patrick's Day Party, featuring the fantastic Irish Harpers and bagpipers. It promises to be a night of revelry and cultural celebration. As we look ahead, plans are already in motion for Wildwood, complete with a new float trailer and an exciting new design that will surely capture the spirit of our Lake Hopatcong members.

Gratitude for Your Support

As we embark on this journey into 2024, we extend our sincere gratitude to you, our valued members and supporters. Your unwavering commitment has been the driving force behind our success. In 2023, your support enabled us to donate over \$90,000, creating a positive and lasting impact on our community. As we face the future, your membership continues to be the cornerstone of the Lake Hopatcong Elks family. Together, let us make 2024 a year to remember, filled with growth, camaraderie, and positive change for all.

Happy New Year! Rick Gathen , Grand Lodge Membership & Marketing Manager & PSP

Dear Lake Hopatcong NJ Elks,

As we gather on this Christmas Eve, I am compelled to express my deepest gratitude for the extraordinary impact you've made throughout December. Your unwavering commitment to the spirit of giving has touched the lives of countless individuals and families in our community, creating a season of warmth, joy, and hope.

Because of your compassion and generosity:

Over 300 local children in need will experience the magic of Christmas with the thoughtful gifts you've provided.

More than 100 families facing financial challenges will have the comfort of a holiday meal thanks to your support.

A dozen families with special needs children came together for a heartwarming Christmas party, fostering a sense of community and inclusion.

Ten families of our departed members were honored with a beautiful Memorial Service, providing solace and remembrance during a challenging time.

A family coping with the heartbreaking loss of their home burning down and being displaced, received crucial financial assistance towards their overwhelming bills and food insecurity.

We donated \$5,000 to the Food Banks in our community, helping many families with food insecurity.

In these acts of kindness, you have embodied the true spirit of Christmas, bringing light and hope into the lives of those facing difficult circumstances. Your selflessness has made a lasting impact on our community, proving that the Lake Hopatcong NJ Elks genuinely matter.

As we celebrate this festive season, I extend my heartfelt thanks to each member of the Lake Hopatcong NJ Elks and to Elks across the nation. Your collective efforts have made a difference that will be remembered and appreciated for years to come.

I wish you all a merry Christmas filled with joy, warmth, and the knowledge that your kindness has brightened the holiday season for so many.

With sincere appreciation, Rick Gathen, Grand Lodge Membership & Marketing Manager

SPECIAL CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

Hello All,

Happy New Year to all the members. We had a very busy Holiday Season to close out 2023. We had 8 families attend A Night Before Christmas. Thank you to all the Elk Members who made the event successful. Santa Claus (**John Shaw, PER**) and Mrs. Claus (**Dawn Shaw**) and our elf **Barb Pirro**. Thanks to **Heidi McDonnell, PDD** with the organization and planning of the event. A signed copy of the book "A Night Before Christmas," was won by special child Eddie Chiappa. Thank you to newer member Susan Horstman for providing the book for us.

We are currently planning behind the scenes for the lodge's major Fundraiser for our Special Children. We will have our 14th Leap in the Lake on Saturday, March 2, 2024. More information will be forthcoming. We will have a lot to work on and we are going to need everyone to step up their game if we are going to achieve last year's record breaking amount.

That is all for now. God Bless you all for the work you continue to do for the Special Children. Happy New Years to all!

As Heidi always says,

"Have a Great, Big Beautiful Tomorrow!"

Heidi McDonnell, ST, PDD & Wayne McDonnell, PER
Co-Chair Special Children's Committee



♥ A Heartfelt Tribute ♥

Honoring Our Departed Members with Dignity and Compassion

In a poignant gathering filled with warmth and remembrance, our Lodge came together on December 3rd, 2023, to honor ten beloved departed members. The Memorial Service, a beautiful and touching event, aimed to provide solace during what can undoubtedly be a challenging time for those left behind.

Led by the **Exalted Ruler Samantha Martin and her dedicated team of Officers**, the Memorial Service was conducted with utmost dignity and compassion. The ceremony was a testament to the profound respect we hold for our departed members and their grieving families. It served as a comforting embrace, offering solace and a shared space for remembrance.

Throughout the service, the air resonated with heartfelt eulogies from friends and family members. Each tribute painted a vivid picture of the lives of our departed loved ones, capturing the essence of their personalities and the impact they had on those around them. These personal stories became a source of strength and connection for everyone present.

One of the highlights of the Memorial Service was the dignified and thoughtful general eulogy delivered by **Rick Gathen, PSP**. His words paid homage to the departed and provided a broader perspective on the importance of remembering and cherishing the memories of those we have lost. **Rick Gathen's** eloquence added a layer of depth to the ceremony, elevating it into a truly meaningful experience for everyone in attendance.

The ambiance of the Hall further contributed to the solemnity of the occasion. Meticulously decorated, the space served as a fitting backdrop for the expressions of love and loss shared during the service. The music selections, carefully chosen to enhance the tribute to our departed members, resonated with the emotions of the moment, creating a harmonious atmosphere of reflection and commemoration.

A special acknowledgment goes to Memorial Service Chairperson **Linda Gathen, PDD**, whose unwavering dedication and meticulous planning ensured that the event was a respectful and meaningful tribute to our absent members. Linda's leadership was instrumental in creating an atmosphere that allowed both solace and celebration, turning a challenging time into an opportunity for communal support.

As we came together to honor our departed members, we reaffirmed the bonds that connect us as a community. The Memorial Service was more than just a ceremony; it was a collective expression of love, grief, and remembrance. May the memories of our departed members continue to inspire and guide us, and may their legacy live on in the stories we share and the connections we forge.

ANTLERS CORNER

Happy New Year! The Antlers held our annual “Make and Take- Snack and Sip” event on Wednesday December 6, 2023 at Nester’s Greenhouse. We had over 60 attendees and everyone had a wonderful time making beautiful wreaths and arrangements! We are looking forward to holding this event again next year. Special thanks to our member Jennifer Markesteyn for all of her hard work to make these events so amazing.

We will be holding a Make your own Mozzarella event on Wednesday February 28th from 7pm to 9pm at the lodge, see the newsletter for details. Tickets will be available in the coming weeks. We are also planning to hold bake sales and a Make your own Pizza event. These fundraising events are to help send our Antlers to the Path and Peer Leadership Conferences which will be held February 1st to the 4th at the Ocean Place Resort and Spa in Long Branch NJ. The Antlers are so excited to attend again this year.

On Saturday December 2, 2023 the Antlers spent the day shopping and wrapping gifts for the two families that we adopted for this year’s Annual Holiday Appeal. We all had a great time and also enjoyed a delicious lunch at Fuddruckers. Continuing in the Holiday spirit the Antlers served Breakfast with Santa at the lodge on December 17th helping to make this another wonderful event.

The Antlers continue to serve Friday Night Dinners and Thirsty Thursdays and are doing an amazing job. They are hardworking and enthusiastic so please continue to show your appreciation when you see them.

Thank all of you for your continued donations to the clothing bins. The Antlers make donations to their favorite charities with the monies raised from the bins.

We continue to try to grow our numbers and if you have any friends or family members between the ages of 12 and 21 encourage them to join the Antlers. We have a great time serving the community and the lodge. Applications and brochures can be found in the front lobby of the lodge.

Wishing Everyone A Happy Holiday Season!!

Fraternally,
Lisa Rovito PER



A Heartfelt Thank You for Your Holiday Generosity

I am compelled to extend my deepest gratitude to every one of you for your extraordinary impact throughout the month of December. Your unwavering commitment to the spirit of giving has illuminated the lives of countless individuals and families in our community. We created a season of unparalleled warmth, joy, and hope.

Your compassion and generosity have manifested in numerous ways, and the ripple effect of your kindness will be felt long after the decorations are put away:

Thanks to the thoughtful gifts you’ve provided, over 300 local children in need will experience the magic of Christmas.

More than 100 families facing financial challenges enjoyed the comfort of a holiday meal, a gesture that goes beyond sustenance to touch the heart.

A family coping with the heartbreaking loss of their home due to a fire and subsequent displacement received crucial financial assistance toward their overwhelming bills and food insecurity—a lifeline in their time of need.

Our donation of \$5,000 to the local Food Banks has made a substantial impact, helping many families facing food insecurity during these challenging times.

In each of these acts of kindness, you have embodied the true spirit of Christmas, bringing light and hope into the lives of those facing difficult circumstances. Your selflessness has impacted our community, proving that the Lake Hopatcong NJ Elks are not just an organization but a beacon of compassion and goodwill.

On behalf of the Holiday Appeal Committee, I would like to thank each Lake Hopatcong NJ Elks member. Your collective efforts have made a difference that will be remembered and appreciated for years to come.

With heartfelt appreciation, Linda Gathen PDD



OLD-FASHIONED ROAST BEEF DINNER

~ Hosted By The Veterans Committee ~

TAKE-OUT OR DINE-IN

Reservations For Inside Dining Recommended & Appreciated

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024

6:30PM-8:30PM

ONLY \$15.00 A PLATE!

*INCLUDES: ROAST BEEF, MASHED POTATOES,
GREEN BEANS, SALAD & HOMEMADE DESSERTS*

DANCE TO THE MUSIC WITH DJ AL

**TO PLACE OR ORDER OR MAKE A RESERVATION
CALL ED 973-479-7696**

Lake Hopatcong Elks · 201 Howard Boulevard · Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856

~ ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE VETERANS COMMITTEE ~

PRE-LEAP IN THE LAKE 2024 FUNDRAISER



**BURGERS • HOT DOGS • BBQ CHICKEN
BAKED BEANS • MAC-N-CHEESE • PASTA SALAD**

\$25.00 ADVANCE • \$30.00 DAY OF EVENT

LIVE MUSIC • 50/50

BEER • WINE • SODA PACKAGE AVAILABLE

~ CASH BAR ALSO AVAILABLE ~

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY **24TH** | **2024**
→ 2PM-6PM



LAKE HOPATCONG ELKS LODGE #782
201 HOWARD BOULEVARD
MOUNT ARLINGTON, NJ 07856

TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE

PLEASE SEE ANY BARTENDER FOR TICKETS OR CONTACT:
Cory Schmidt at 973-440-7393 • smokinschmidtys@yahoo.com

(ALL PROCEEDS TOWARDS LAKE HOPATCONG ELKS LEAP IN THE LAKE GRAND TOTAL)



**LEARN HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN
FRESH HOMEMADE MOZZARELLA**

FEBRUARY 28, 2024 @ 7:00pm-9:00pm



\$40/PERSON INCLUDES:







- **HANDS-ON INSTRUCTIONS**
- **GLASS OF WINE OR DRINK OF YOUR CHOICE**
- **TAKE HOME YOUR MOZZARELLA BALLS**

****BRING YOUR OWN BOWL & WOODEN SPOON**

**SEE THE BARTENDER FOR TICKETS
OR CALL SAMANTHA AT 201-214-6925**

TO BENEFIT LAKE HOPATCONG ANTLERS

2024 JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 	2 LODGE MEETING	3	4 DARTS 	5 Friday Night Dinner	6
7	8 Motorcycle Committee Meeting 6pm	9 HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING	10	11 DARTS 	12 Friday Night Dinner	13
14	15 Ritual Practice	16 LODGE MEETING	17	18 DARTS 	19 Friday Night Dinner	20  ROAST BEEF DINNER
21	22 Ritual Practice	23 HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING	24	25 DARTS 	26 Friday Night Dinner	27
28	29 Ritual Practice	30	31			

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thirsty THURSDAY

January 4th
Mini Meatball Parm Sandwich
(Shrimp Corn Chowder)

January 11th
Cuban Sandwich
(White Bean Soup)

January 18th
WING NIGHT
(Teriyaki, Buffalo, Garlic Parm)
(Chicken & Rice Soup)

January 25th
Cheesesteaks & Tater Tots
(Cream of Mushroom Soup)

1st Monday
Every Month 6PM

MOTORCYCLE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Walter Wurster
973-420-8165
elksmc782@gmail.com

Lake Hopatcong Elks
201 Howard Blvd.
Mt. Arlington

#782
LAKE HOPATCONG ELKS
MOTORCYCLE COMMITTEE



SHOT FROM THE BAR

Happy New Year Everyone!







I know you are all excited that Thirsty Thursday kicks off again this month! It was missed by many! We look forward to serving you! Come and join us on Superbowl Sunday, February 11th! We will have drink specials and there will be food served at half time!

Nancy Loizou, Bar Chairperson

SUPERBOWL SUNDAY DRINK SPECIALS!!



February 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		LODGE MEETING	1 DARTS 	2 Friday Night Dinner	3	4
5	6 Motorcycle Committee Meeting 6pm	7 HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING	8 DARTS 	9 Friday Night Dinner	10	11
12	13 Ritual Practice	14 LODGE MEETING	15 DARTS 	16 Friday Night Dinner	17	18
19	20 Ritual Practice	21 HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING	22 DARTS 	23 Friday Night Dinner	24	25 PRE-LEAP FUNDRAISER 
26	27 Ritual Practice	28	29 			



LAKE HOPATCONG ELKS LODGE

No. 782

201 Howard Boulevard
Mount Arlington, NJ 07856



Elks Care – Elks Share