



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



MARCH 2025

CHARITY



JUSTICE



BROTHERLY LOVE



FIDELITY



## Exalted Ruler's Message

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

2024

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

2025



First, I would like to thank the Lodge Members for supporting me and my Officers throughout the year. Next, I would like to thank the Lodge Advisors and Chairpersons for all their hard work that made this past year a success. Since transferring to Lake Hopatcong my wife and I have never felt so welcome and accepted by everyone. The way the members welcome new members is why this lodge is growing month by month. The past year has had many successes because of the members and officers of this Lodge.

Our lodge had a big presence at the state's Peer Leadership Conference this February. The Elks turned 157 years old on February 16<sup>th</sup> and continue to be the premier charitable organization in the country. It has been called the best kept secret because not only do you help others but have a good time doing it. Where else can you get the feeling that only comes from helping those in need.

The Lodge Officers participated in the Initiatory Ritual Competition held in Long Branch and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> with 4 Officers taking State awards. I am very proud of the team and what we accomplished and a great would like to thank the coaches who helped us throughout the year. The biggest event of the year, the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Leap in the Lake was held Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup>. With over 900 leapers and the most sponsors ever we raised a record amount of \$123,000. A big thank you to all the members who solicited the community for the donations that made that possible. We are fortunate to have such a generous community that supports us so that we can make the donations that we made on Saturday. Donations of \$1000.00 each were made to 16 schools and all the special children in attendance received checks as well. This is what we as Elks we support our surrounding community anyway we can.

On March 22<sup>nd</sup> a new Exalted Ruler will be sworn in along with her slate of Officers. Please come out and support them as you supported me and my Officers. Good luck to the incoming leaders of the Lodge.

Fraternally,  
Peter Appaluccio  
Exalted Ruler

## 2024-2025 LODGE OFFICERS



Exalted Ruler	Peter Appaluccio, PDD 973-726-7818
Est. Leading Knight	Patricia Zdichocki 973-723-6462
Est. Loyal Knight	Walter Wurster 973-420-8165
Est. Lecturing Knight	Samantha Martin, PER 201-214-6925
Esquire	Matthew Winnans, PVP 201-572-8297
Chaplain	Kimberly Tweed 862-242-0116
Inner Guard	Jason Howard 973-294-6837
Tiler	Lisa Rovito, DD 201-978-7218
Treasurer	Linda Gathen, PDD 973-398-2097
Secretary	Barbara Tokar, PER 201-207-7545
Lodge Photographer	Linda Kline 973-476-1131
1 Year Trustee	Sean MacMillan
2 Year Trustee	Tom Brown, PDD
3 Year Trustee	Wayne McDonell, VP
4 Year Trustee	Richard Gathen, PSP
5 Year Trustee	Richard Ter Linden

## HOUSE COMMITTEE

Debi Werner, *Chairperson*  
 Vicki Angle  
 Jen Brown  
 Sue Bruyere  
 Dawn Crocetti  
 Derya Harquil  
 Diane LaPreta  
 Nancy Loizou  
 Dawn Malanka  
 Annette McInerney  
 Debbie Sobierajski  
 Kim Tweed  
 Kathy Venier

## 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	Samantha Martin, PER 201-214-6925
Auditing & Accounting	Kathleen Caffrey, PDD 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	Samantha Martin, PER 201-214-6925
Co-Chair	Dee Krowl 973-390-0638
Elks National Foundation	Pete Appaluccio, PDD 973-736-7818
Flag Day	Rick Gathen, PSP 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)	Walter Wurster 973-420-8165
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, PER 973-222-4547
Softball/Cornhole Tournament:	Ricky Gathen

## RELIEF COMMITTEE

Pete Appaluccio, Exalted Ruler	973-726-7818
Patty Zdichocki, Leading Knight	201-723-6462
Walter Wurster, Loyal Knight	973-420-8165
Samantha Martin, PER, Lecturing Knight	201-214-6925
Linda Gathen, PDD, Treasurer	973-398-2097
Barbara Tokar, PER	201-207-7545
Ritual	Heidi McDonnell, PDD 973-545-1557
Scholarship	Jennifer Appaluccio, PER 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, VPE 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	John Manno
01	Jody Miller
02	Thomas D Babbitt
02	Michael Murdter
02	Katherine Reiche
02	Thomas J Warner
03	Charles G Rist
04	Sharon Romero
05	Allen Hutchins
05	Daniel Malloy
06	Alfred Walls
07	Christa Anderson
07	Scott Curry
07	Krystyn DePree
07	Idiana Murray-Martin
08	Melissa McConnon
09	Christina A Beaulieu
09	Jerry Findlow
10	Thomas Francis Chiappa
10	Dennis Lynch
10	Joseph Stark
12	Sonia Joseph
13	Patricia DeDolce
13	Paola DiBernardo
13	William Lounsbury
14	Sharon Gruber
14	John R Perry
15	Robert Fletcher
15	Robert J Hardt
15	Mark Petrosky
16	Sam Altana
16	Thomas Kennedy
16	Dolores M Perkovic
17	Brenda DeNure
17	Lesa Modafferi
17	Patricia Ann Randazzo
18	Joseph Sliasky
19	Robert Venier
20	Patricia Carley
21	John Arbolino
21	Alice Denino
21	Bridget Wisher
22	Patricia Monica
22	Deborah Robinson
23	Donna Catapano
23	John R Hendrickson
23	George Kunka
23	Linda Wright
24	Antonio Cappello
24	Derek Walsh
25	William Erickson
26	Brian Keegan
26	Thomas E Mac Donald
26	Leon Sweet
28	Pauline Cook
28	Gail Delaney
28	Robert C Ricker
29	Tarin Chiappa
29	John McAtteer
29	Frank Trosky
29	Robert Wood
30	Dale DelCamp
30	Annette McInerney
30	Roxanne J Steffen
30	Sally Styring
30	Kim Sweet
31	Michael J Del Vecchio
31	Wayne Shaw
31	Michael J Wisher

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## ***“Elks Give from the Heart”***

**Douglas A. Schiefer**

GRAND EXALTED RULER

**2024-2025**

***“Elkdom’s Heart for America”***

**Deadlines, programs, training wrap up Lodge year**



The Elks Lodge year is coming to a close but now is not the time to sit back and relax. You still have the opportunity to complete some unfinished projects and finish strong.

All of the various programs and awards for your Lodge and Members are due this month. Take the chance to review Elks programs on [elks.org](http://elks.org) to see what awards and certificates of achievement you can give to your Members. One great program is the Contest “A” – All American Lodge Contest. Although you may believe your Lodge does not qualify for this award, you should still submit the application to see where your Lodge stands and where you can make improvements next year to continue showing “Elkdom’s Heart for America.”

This is also the deadline for all yearly contributions to Elks National Foundation. I know your Lodge has met, or is close to meeting, the \$5.00 per Member goal. There are also many ENF awards and certificates for your Lodge and Members. These should be applied for and given out. ENF provides money to your State Association, as well as funding many grant programs for your community activities. The most common recommendation from your Grand Lodge Area Auditor is for Lodges to better use the ENF grants to help improve operations. Most programs funded by your Lodge could be funded by ENF, which creates even more opportunities for your Lodge to have a greater impact.

Best wishes to all our new Lodge Officers who are going to be committed to governing the many practices and traditions that are fundamental to making our Lodges the best they can be. I hope that the transition will be smooth because it’s important that the experienced Officers mentor and help the new Officers to make the Lodge year a success.

Please take time to have a training program within the Lodge or district like the Elks Kollege of Knowledge that educates and trains new Officers to do their job. Mentoring new Officers can make a smooth, prepared transition.

New Exalted Rulers you must list your committee appointments and give the list to the Lodge Secretary. Secretaries, please give this information to your District Deputy for the Lodge directory. This information then should be entered into CLMS2.

What would we do without our Secretaries who keep everything in order? Thank you for your service. I know it’s a busy time for you as you are preparing the year-end reports.

Leaders of the Lodge, it is time to solidify your budget for the upcoming year and make any adjustments that are needed. This is also a time to evaluate what needs to be fixed. Any successful endeavor takes teamwork.

March is the time to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day. One thing we all know how to do well is to have fun and fellowship with our Members in Elkdom.

Thank you for your service. God bless you all, God bless our troops, and God bless America!

***“Elks Care - Elks Share.”***

## **WELCOME WEDNESDAY**

**MARCH 5TH**

Fish Fry By Debbie Hill & House Committee

**MARCH 12TH**

Wing Night With Fries  
Turkey Tortellini Soup By Patty Zdichocki  
Music By “DJ Mikey D”

**MARCH 19TH**

Veterans Committee Chef Surprise

**MARCH 26TH**

Cheesesteaks With Tater Tots  
Beef Barley Soup



Live Music by: **Aiken Barker AKA Charlie Moose**



What an incredible turn out for the Leap in the Lake raising \$123,000! That is just amazing! This month we will be having our wELkome Wednesday Wing Night on March 12th with Turkey Tortellini soup made by Patty Zdichocki from 5-7pm. Our next meeting on Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:30PM. We will be having a PAINT & SIP LAZY SUSAN event on April 23rd. Please see the newsletter for more details. Tickets are now on sale and limited! Get yours today!

Tom Brown, PDD

Youth Activities Committee Chairperson

## SICKNESS & DISTRESS



Sending condolences to our member, **Jim Visco** on the loss of his brother, Ralph Visco and also to **Veronica Blewitt** on the loss of her cousin, Michael's son, James Thomas. May you and your families find peace and comfort in the memories you share.

Thoughts and prayers to our members who are ill or home recovering from recent sickness, injury, surgery or procedures: **Erin Darden, Frank Trosky, Dona Sutton, Karen Alonge and Ralph Elpin.** Also, continued well wishes to **Linda Gathen's** Mother. Our best wishes for a complete and successful recovery to all.

Extending well wishes to all our members. If you know of any member in need of our thoughts and prayers please be sure to contact me.

Lauren Greed, *Chairperson*  
973-668-6733 • LGreed83@gmail.com

## HOUSE COMMITTEE

What a great way to start March then with our 15th annual LEAP IN THE LAKE raising \$123,00.00! Thank you to all who made it happen! A big shout out to both **Rick & Linda Gathen** for once again pulling this off and leading the way! I want to give a shout out to my kitchen crew who helped to get everything ready to feed the cold & wet leapers. We had a couple hundred come through. You guys did a great job!

March 5th is Ash Wednesday with **Debbie Hill's** famous fish fry. Hope you have your reservations as there are only a few spaces left.

We have our St Patricks Party on March 8th. Hope you got your tickets .... we are already **SOLD OUT!**

On March 22nd is our Installation of new Exalted Ruler and officers for the upcoming Fraternal year. I would like to thank **Pete Appaluccio** for a great year. It was a pleasure to work with you!!

Being there is a great love of both our Breakfast with Santa and the Eater Bunny breakfasts we are going to change things slightly. We will be having two seatings. You will be required to make a reservation and and the time slot you wish to reserve. Tickets will not be sold. You will be able to pay at the door. Stay tuned for more information to come. We have decided to change things so we don't have to turn away guests that desire to be a part of these fun and great breakfasts. Mark your calendar as April 13th is our Breakfast with the Bunny.

Don't forget to buy your \$5 raffle ticket for \$500 in ShopRite gift cards!! Tickets are available at the members bar. You have to be in it to win it!!!

HTank you girls in my house committee for all that you do!

Debi Werner,  
*House Committee Chairperson*



## FRIDAY NIGHT DINNERS

**MARCH 7, 2025**  
COCONUT SHRIMP, FRIES & COLESLAW

**MARCH 14, 2025**  
SHRIMP OVER PASTA  
IN A PINK VODKA SAUCE

**MARCH 21, 2025**  
CHEF SURPRISE!

**MARCH 28, 2025**  
VEGGIE LASAGNA

*LOOKING FOR NEW COOKS FOR 2025!!*

PLEASE CALL DEBI WERNER  
973-668-9302



## SHOTS FROM THE BAR

March Madness is coming games will be on! Come on down! NASCAR Sundays continue all month! With spring around the corner, that means Patio Season!! Hold tight members, warm weather is coming!!




WOW! OVER 200 PEOPLE FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL  
**PRE-LEAP PIG ROAST!!! A GREAT EVENT!!!**

## Join Us for the Installation of New Officers – March 22nd

On Saturday, March 22nd, we invite you to a heartfelt celebration of leadership, service, and community. As we welcome our new Officers and honor those who have served with dedication, this event is more than a tradition—it is a tribute to the remarkable volunteers who make our Lodge a place of impact, compassion, and unity.

 Schedule of Events:


 1:00 PM – Cocktails


 2:00 PM – Installation Ceremony


 3:00 PM – Dinner & Dancing


This no-charge event is an opportunity to reflect on an extraordinary year of achievements. Through the selfless work of our Officers & volunteers, we have strengthened our Lodge, grown our membership, and made a lasting difference in the lives of so many.


## Honoring Our Committees & Their Impact


 **Veterans Committee** – Nearly 40 dedicated members ensure that those who served our nation are never forgotten. Their tireless work provides warmth, dignity, and unwavering support to our heroes, making our Lodge a sanctuary of honor and gratitude.


 **Youth Activities, Drug Awareness, Scholarship & Antlers Committees** – With approximately 30 passionate members, these committees shape the future of our youth. Whether by helping a student become the first in their family to attend college or by encouraging a young person to lead a drug-free life, their efforts change lives and inspire dreams.


 **Children with Special Needs Committee** – Every child deserves to feel seen, accepted, and loved. This committee brings joy, inclusion, and support to children and families, creating moments that truly matter.


 **Motorcycle Committee** – Among the largest and most active in our Lodge, this dedicated team works year-round to support special children and veterans, combining passion with purpose in everything they do.

 **PER Association** – One of the most engaged in the nation, our Past Exalted Rulers lead signature events like Leap in the Lake, Seafood Fest, and many more, ensuring our Lodge remains vibrant and strong.


 **Ritual Committee** – Keeping our ceremonies and traditions alive with excellence, reinforcing the values that make us who we are.

 **Building Maintenance & Trustees** – Ensuring that our Lodge is not just a place, but a home—well-kept, welcoming, and built to serve. Thanks to them, our facilities and grounds have never looked or operated better.

 **House Committee & Bar Staff** – More than just great service—they create a welcoming atmosphere with exceptional food and drinks at affordable prices. Our Lodge rentals and catering services are thriving like never before, a testament to their dedication.

 **Public Relations & Marketing** – A special shout-out to **Patsy Schmidt, Jennifer Appaluccio, Nancy Loizou, and Linda Gathen**—the best PR team in the nation! From our Lodge Bulletin, social media, email blasts, website, and outdoor signage to event promotions and community outreach, their work keeps our Lodge connected and thriving.

And this is only a glimpse of the incredible work being done every day by our volunteers.

 Join us on March 22nd to welcome our new Officers and celebrate the remarkable individuals who make our Lodge so special. Let's come together to express our gratitude, share in our successes, and look forward to another year of service, and impact.

We look forward to seeing you there!



**FRIDAY NIGHT PRE-LEAP KICK OFF WITH THE CITY LIMIT ... FUN NIGHT!**



**Nearly 50 Members In Attendance To Help Put Together The Leap In The Lake Bags! Thank You!**

# LEAVE YOUR DOUBT AT THE DOOR

## THE 15<sup>TH</sup> LEAP IN THE LAKE BREAKS RECORDS!

The 15th Annual Leap in the Lake for Special Needs Children and Adults was nothing short of extraordinary. This year, we shattered records, raising an astounding \$123,000—all thanks to the unwavering dedication of our community. The outpouring of support, from volunteers to sponsors, was simply unparalleled, proving once again that when we come together, we can accomplish incredible things.

From the bottom of our hearts, we extend our deepest gratitude to the incredible volunteers of the Lake Hopatcong Elks who poured their time, energy, and passion into making this event a resounding success. Their hard work behind the scenes ensured that every participant, spectator, and recipient felt the true spirit of giving and inclusion. This annual event is our promise to the Special Needs community—a commitment to providing unwavering support, joy, and opportunities for those who inspire us every day.

A heartfelt thank you to the area schools and special education classrooms that participated and benefited from this year's fundraising efforts. The donation checks delivered to these incredible programs will go a long way in providing resources, support, and unforgettable experiences for the children who inspire us every day. Likewise, the special children and adults who received generous donations were a shining reminder of why we leap—because every individual deserves to feel valued, supported, and celebrated.

We are also profoundly grateful to our local leaders—our area Mayors and Council members—who showed up in force to support this event. Your leadership and presence demonstrate the power of community-driven initiatives and how much can be achieved when our local government stands behind a great cause.

And of course, our first responders—our heroes. The police, fire departments, and EMTs who ensured the safety and success of this event deserve our highest appreciation. Their commitment to service, not just in times of emergency but in celebrations of inclusion and generosity, makes all the difference.

With record participation, unmatched generosity, and an unwavering spirit, the 15th Annual Leap in the Lake was a true testament to what our community can achieve together. Thank you to every sponsor, donor, volunteer, and participant who made this year's leap a record-breaker. Your kindness and commitment to making a difference will ripple far beyond the icy waters of Lake Hopatcong and into the hearts of so many deserving individuals.

Here's to continuing the tradition, breaking even more records, and ensuring that every special needs child and adult knows they are seen, valued, and loved. Leave your doubt at the door... the 15th Annual Leap in the Lake will generate waves of making a difference.

Fraternally, Rick Gathen, PSP

### 15th ANNUAL LEAP IN THE LAKE

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS**

## EASY WAYS TO PAY YOUR DUES!

### CASH-N-DASH

Swing by our lodge and pay your dues in cash!! We even have an ATM on site!!

*Quick, Easy & Friendly!*

### WRITE A CHECK, REX!!

WRITE A CHECK PAYABLE TO:  
Lake Hopatcong Elks Lodge

**DROP IT OFF OR PUT IT IN THE MAIL, DALE!**

LAKE HOPATCONG ELKS  
201 HOWARD BLVD · MT. ARLINGTON, NJ 07856

### PAY ON THE WEB, DEB!

[www.lakehopatcongelks.com](http://www.lakehopatcongelks.com)  
(Click on the "Pay Dues" tab)

**JUST SCAN HERE DEER!**




February may be the shortest month of the year, but we sure know how to pack it full of excitement! The Antlers had an absolutely fantastic time at Path & Peer Leadership this year. With top-notch speakers who truly resonate with the kids, they attended multiple sessions, enjoyed delicious meals, danced the night away, played games, and maybe even caught a little sleep. Overall, it was a positive and memorable weekend for our Antlers. A very special THANK YOU goes out to **Tom Brown** for driving them home again this year!

On February 14th, the Antlers served a delightful Valentine's Dinner, prepared by our house committee. They also helped prepare the Leap in the Lake bags and handed them out at the pre-leap party. They are eagerly looking forward to the Leap on 3/1 and the installation of their officers on 3/22. As always, they extend their gratitude for everyone's generosity and patience. The Antlers continue to serve Friday Night Dinners and wELKcome Wednesdays. We are so grateful for their hard work and enthusiasm, so please continue to show your appreciation when you see them.

Help us spread the word as we look for ways to grow our numbers. Membership in the Antlers is open to any individual who has passed their twelfth and not yet reached their twenty-first birthday, who is a citizen of the United States of America, of good character, and who believes in the existence of God. It's a great time to be an ANTLER, and we should all encourage the youth to join us. Applications and brochures can be found in the front lobby of the lodge. The Antlers do amazing things and have a great time serving our community as well as the lodge!

Lastly, thank you for your continued donations to the clothing bins, as it helps them make monthly donations to their favorite charities.

Remember Antlers today, Elks tomorrow!  
Fraternally, Samantha P. Martin  PER, Antler Chairperson



Wow! Peer Leadership takes a whole year to plan, and it's over in one exhilarating and exhausting weekend. The kids have an absolute blast with a jam-packed schedule that includes inspiring speakers, delicious meals, engaging planning sessions, lively line dancing, fun game rooms, nightly dances, and even a mesmerizing hypnotist!

Despite the weather, nothing could stop them from attending the conference. Our lodge had a fantastic turnout! **PSP Bob Ricker** is one of the Committee's State Advisors, while **PDD Tom Brown and PVP Matt Winnans** ensured top-notch security. **PVP Jen and PDD Pete Appaluccio** shared our amazing Elks Scholarship opportunities, and **PDD Kathleen Caffrey** was our on-call nurse. The legendary **Walter Wurster (The GOAT), DD Lisa Rovito, Dee Krowl, and I** were there as advisors, along with 50 other Elks, to manage the daily logistics for over 500 enthusiastic kids.

The planning for next year is already in full swing, with new speakers being lined up and applications for Youth Staff pouring in. This Committee never stops, always striving to keep our kids safe and engaged. I can't wait to see what they have in store for us next year!

Keep an eye out for our summer BBQs, which help fund these incredible events for our youth. Let's make next year even more unforgettable!



*Congrats To  
Ashleigh & Will  
Both Inducted  
Into The  
French  
Culinary  
Society!*

**SAVE THE DATES**  
*Stay Tuned For More Details*  
**Motorcycle Committee Events**  
**FILL THE LODGE**  
**MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> FROM 6PM-9PM**  
**BLOODY MARY BREAKFAST**  
**APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> FROM 9AM-11AM**

# SPECIAL CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

Members,

March starts off strong with the 15th Annual Leap in the Lake. We hosted 11 special kids and their families at this year's leap. We were honored to start a team called "THE INVINCIBLES" with all of them and happy to report that they raised over \$300. Amazing job by our kids and their families. Each child who attended also received \$250, and a Leap Team Shirt. We also had our annual art project that was auctioned off. We will share the amount raised from the project once we have the final figures...more to come! We are also pleased and proud to report that a donation was made to Hopatcong Smiles, a local residential living facility for special needs adults, and \$16,000 was donated to local schools - \$1000 to 16 area school special needs programs. Amazing work will be done by those programs with those funds due to all of your hard work and generosity. Congratulations to all involved with the leap this year which was an overall record breaking success! Thank you to **Linda Gathen, PDD** for all her hard work with putting the sponsors together on the back of the shirts. This was no small feat and she did an absolutely incredible job. Thanks also to the head of the leap committee **Rick Gathen**, Grand Lodge Membership and Marketing Director, PSP. We would be remiss if we did not send a HUGE thank you to all the members, sponsors, and teams who make this event what it is year after year.

As we head further into spring we will have an Easter Basket Giveaway for all our special children. There will also be a NW District Easter Party as well. (More information in the flyer in this newsletter.) For now that is all that we have, but please stay tuned for more to come.

*Until next time, have a great big beautiful tomorrow!*

Wayne & Heidi McDonnell, SCC Lodge Co-Chairs







## VETERANS COMMITTEE

The Veterans Committee has a few months of nothing on schedule but making plans for upcoming events! Stay tuned! The lodge will be having our Annual Fish fry on Ash Wednesday. It is an enjoyable meal and always has a great crowd! Let's not forget the Saint Patty's Day Celebration which is always another great time. Delicious food and great entertainment by the Irish Harpers.

We are coming to the end of a Fraternal year with a new Exalted Ruler taking her position. Best of luck to you, Patty Zdichocki and to all of the new chair people. Thank you Pete Appaluccio for a great year!

We had a record breaking Leap in the Lake with over 900 total leapers raising \$123,000! Our Veterans Committee had a team that consisted of both leapers and land lubbers. Although we did have to break through the ice, the weather was one of the best in recent years!

Please remember to keep our Veterans in your thoughts and prayers. May God bless America!

Ed Parrillo, Committee Chairperson

**VETERANS COMMITTEE  
2025 MEETING SCHEDULE**  
2ND TUESDAY EVERY MONTH @ 6:30PM

LAKE HOPATCONG ELKS 782

# FISH FRY

DINE IN OR TAKE OUT

**Ash Wednesday  
March 5, 2025**

**\$15.00 PER PERSON**

Serving From 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM



**(THIS IS A RESERVATION ONLY DINNER)**

LAKE HOPATCONG ELKS • 201 HOWARD BOULEVARD • MT. ARLINGTON • 973-398-9835

# WANT TO FILL YOUR CART?

## DRAWING MOTHER'S DAY

**SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025**



Lake Hopatcong Elks  
201 Howard Blvd.  
Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856



**SEE ANY BARTENDER FOR  
TICKETS TODAY!**

# St. Patrick's Day



# DANCE

The Lake Hopatcong Elks

6:00pm **MARCH 8<sup>th</sup>** 11:00pm

Presents

**The Irish Harpers & Bagpipers**

Limited  
Tickets  
Available



**ADVANCE TICKETS \$30 • DAY OF EVENT \$35**

DINNER 6PM-7PM | MUSIC/DANCING: 7PM-11PM

CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER • CASH BAR AVAILABLE

Lake Hopatcong Elks • 201 Howard Boulevard • Mt. Arlington • 973-398-9835

# Lazy Susan **SIP & PAINT**

**April 23rd  
7PM-9PM**

**LIMITED TICKETS**

**Guided Class Done Together**

*Bring Your Own Shareable Snacks*

**\$50.00 PER PERSON**

*(Includes 1 Free Beverage)*



**LAKE HOPATCONG ELKS • 201 HOWARD BLVD., MT. ARLINGTON • 973-398-9835**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ALL STATE RITUAL  
WINNERS FROM LAKE HOPATCONG ELKS #782!**

Patty Zdichocki Leading Knight 93.2350

*Congratulations Patty on also receiving the Jay Liggett Award*

Walter Wurster Loyal Knight 94.3390

Jason Howard Inner Guard 91.8820

*(Not pictured All State Winner Candidate Jennifer Appaluccio)*



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU!**

As a result of Sarah Libitz owner of NJ Pickle girls this donation of \$1100.00 was made possible by Eric Kippycash, AKA, The Dinosaur!

**March 2025**

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET???**

							1 Leap For Love
2 Ritual Practice	3 LODGE MEETING	4 FISH FRY POOL LEAGUE	5 Darts	6 Friday Night Dinner	7	8	
9 Ritual Practice	10 HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING	11 WELCOME WEDNESDAY POOL LEAGUE	12 Darts	13 Friday Night Dinner	14		
16 Ritual Practice	17 LODGE MEETING	18 WELCOME WEDNESDAY POOL LEAGUE	19 Darts Spring	20 Friday Night Dinner	21	22 Installation Of New Officers	
23 Ritual Practice	24 LODGE MEETING	25 WELCOME WEDNESDAY POOL LEAGUE	26 Darts	27 Friday Night Dinner	28	29	
30	31						

**ELKS**  
*Celebrate New Leaders*  
**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**  
**Patricia Zdichocki**  
**March 22nd**  
**COCKTAILS 1PM INSTALLATION 2PM**  
**DINNER, DJ & DANCING**  
 Community • Friendship • Charity  
 elks.org

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

NJ Elks Vocational Scholarships are now open, this is an one-time \$1000.00 award. There will be two (one male – one female) \$1000.00 Vocational Scholarships awarded in each of the twelve Elks' Districts in New Jersey for a total of \$24,000.00 in Scholarship Awards.

It is for students who have completed their secondary education requirements and plan to attend or are attending a post-secondary school to pursue a certificate or credential in a vocational or technical program. Post-secondary schools include vocational or technical schools. Students attending a two year community college are also eligible as long as they are pursuing a certificate or credential. Students planning to earn an Associate's or Bachelor's Degree are not eligible for this scholarship program.

This scholarship is available to graduating high school students or within four years of earning a high school diploma or a GED. Applicant must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of New Jersey on the date that the application is submitted.

Applications must be submitted to the student's local Elks Lodge, postmarked between March 5, 2025 and May 12, 2025.

For an application visit: [njelks.org](http://njelks.org) - Our Programs - Scholarships



**\$150**  
**April 15th**  
**Payment**  
**Due**

**\$150**  
**May 15th**  
**Payment**  
**Due**

**Wildwood**  
**Convention**  
**June 5<sup>th</sup> -**  
**June 8<sup>th</sup>**



**LAKE HOPATCONG ELKS LODGE**

**No. 782**

201 Howard Boulevard  
Mount Arlington, NJ 07856



**Elks Care – Elks Share**