



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



## NOVEMBER 2025

**CHARITY****JUSTICE****BROTHERLY LOVE****FIDELITY**

## Exalted Ruler's Message

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

**2025**

Let's make this year one to remember.  
Together, we can accomplish great things.

**2026**

We had a busy October. We brought a lot of members in, wELKome to all the new members! October 5th we had the Walk Out On Drugs. We had about five or six people from our lodge show up. Thank you very much! October 9th was the Gerry Cook Golf Outing. We all had such a great time. Thank you, again Drug Awareness Committee. From the 12th to the 19<sup>th</sup> Lisa and I were on a cruise with other elks members benefiting Youth Activities. We had a great time! I want to thank all the wELKome Wednesday committees for the great job you're doing. Keep up the good work. On October 24th our Motorcycle Committee had their Bourbon and Cigar Night. It was an outstanding event. Way to go Motorcycle Committee. Thank you very much for all your hard work on the success of this event. On the 25th we had Trunk or Treat in the morning. I want to thank everyone that participated in this event. The kids had a blast! Then we had our '80s Red ribbon dance. Big thank you to all the members who showed up in costume. You all looked great. I think we had a great time that night and we raised some money for a good cause. On the 28th of October we brought in five new members. Great job Ritual team!

So as October fades into our memory we charge into November. Let's get going ... November 2<sup>nd</sup> we had a breakfast for Caden Flores, a child battling cancer at the Sussex Lodge. It was a District Special Children's Committee event. We had 20 people from our Lodge show up. Thank you very much. The family was very appreciative.

Our wELKome Wednesdays are continuing for this month but will take a pause in the month of December. Please come out and enjoy a nice meal and support our committees. They really appreciate it. The Friday night dinner crew is doing an excellent job serving great food. Thank you to the cooks and antlers who are serving these delicious meals!

November 11th is Veterans Day. We will have a ceremony at the lodge. Please come out and support. Ed Parillo from the Veterans Committee is selling flags. Please purchase the flag. They're only \$5 and we put it out on the lawn. Let's hit 300. One more shout out for Ed and his Veterans committee which will be doing their Annual Black Friday Spaghetti Dinner. Come on out and have some pasta and meatballs!

Well, I think I've said enough. Let's keep going everybody's doing a great job! The cooking staff, the bartenders, the ritual team and all our members. Without your support, we wouldn't be able to do what we do. Thank you very much. And here's a final thought...just remember brotherhood and kindness go a lot further than evil and hate.

I would like to wish everybody a very, very Happy Thanksgiving. May you and your family have a wonderful day.

Fraternally yours, Walter Wurster  
Exalted Ruler

# 2025-2026 LODGE OFFICERS



Exalted Ruler	Walter Wurster 973-420-8165
Est. Leading Knight	Eric Sabol 908-229-9165
Est. Loyal Knight	Pete Appaluccio, PDD 973-736-7818
Est. Lecturing Knight	Kimberly Tweed 862-242-0116
Esquire	Samantha Martin, PER 201-214-6925
Chaplain	Jason Howard 973-294-6837
Inner Guard	Michael Moroney 862-432-2975
Tiler	Lisa Rovito, DD 201-978-7218
Treasurer	Linda Gathen, PDD 973-398-2097
Secretary	Barbara Tokar, PER 201-207-7545
Lodge Photographer	Jason Howard 973-294-6837
1 Year Trustee	Tom Brown, PDD
2 Year Trustee	Wayne McDonell, VP
3 Year Trustee	Richard Gathen, PSP
4 Year Trustee	Richard Ter Linden
5 Year Trustee	Mike Tresca, PER

## HOUSE COMMITTEE

Debi Werner, Chairperson	973-668-9302
Annette McInerney	973-818-9687
Derya Harquill	862-812-3186
Pat Kerrigan	201-686-0156
Sue Bruyere	973-714-0911
Dawn Crocetti	973-954-0253
Kathy Venier	973-738-3259
Nancy Zotynia Loizou	973-632-1129
Dawn Malanka	973-713-9155
Vicki Angle	201-506-1181
Terry Lopatosky	973-615-9070

## 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	Bernadette Delesandro 201-602-2287
Antlers	Samantha Martin, PER 201-214-6925
Auditing & Accounting	Kathleen Caffrey, PDD 973-534-8283
Bar Chair	Nancy Loizou 973-632-1129
Community Activities	Richard Gathen, PSP 862-324-2412
Convention	Linda Gathen, PPD 973-398-2097
Drug Awareness	Samantha Martin, PER 201-214-6925
Elks National Foundation	Pete Appaluccio, PDD 973-736-7818
Flag Day	Rick Gathen, PSP 862-324-2412
Fraternal Committee	Linda Gathen, PDD 973-398-2097
Goverment Relations	Victoria Angle 201-506-1181
Grounds Maintenance	Trustees
Hall Rental	Debi Werner 973-668-9302
Hoop Shoot	Tom Brown, PDD 973-919-5395
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	Samantha Martin, PER 201-214-6925
Maintenance Committee (Reports to the Tustees)	Walter Wurster 973-420-8165
Memorial Day	Linda Gathen, PDD 973-398-2097
Motorcycle	Brian DeVries 973-934-7347
Orientation	Rick Gathen, PSP 973-398-2097
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

Walter Wurster, Exalted Ruler	973-420-8165
Eric Sabol, Leading Knight	908-229-9165
Pete Appaluccio, PDD, Loyal Knight	973-736-7818
Kim Tweed, Lecturing Knight	201-214-6925
Linda Gathen, PDD, Treasurer	973-398-2097
Barbara Tokar, PER	201-207-7545
Ritual	Kathleen Caffrey, PDD 973-534-8283
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
Veterans	Wayne McDonnell, VPE 973-841-9845
Army of Hope	Ed Parrillo 973-398-6677
Youth Activities	Lisa Rovito, DD 201-978-7218
	Tom Brown, PDD 973-919-5395

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MEMBERS OF NOVEMBER



## "Elks Give from the Heart"

**BRYAN KLATT**  
GRAND EXALTED RULER  
**2025-2026**



*"Elkdom's Heart for America"*

### MEMBER SHOULD HONOR, SUPPORT VETERANS THIS MONTH

The Order of the Elks has designated November as Veterans Remembrance Month. Every Elk should know our solemn pledge of "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

Veterans are our heroes! Please find a way to honor veterans in your Lodge and in your community. Some ways to say you care would be by hosting a veterans dinner at your Local Lodge, distributing care packages, and attending local events that coincide with your community's recognition of veterans.

Our organization led the way in 1917 to fund and later establish the first veterans' hospital. Currently, we have more than 700 Elks assigned to more than 400 VA Medical Centers, State Veterans Homes, clinics, and housing facilities across the country.

Our volunteers visit these facilities 2.5 times per month on average and provide entertainment such as bingo, art classes, and dinners. They also donate hygiene items and clothing, each making sure that the veterans are a priority.

The Order is committed to ending veterans homelessness. One way is by supplying Welcome Home Kits to newly housed veterans. This past year there were 4,252 kits distributed. The kits could include a bed, dishes, small furniture, and appliances like a microwave and coffee maker.

Another way is our partnership with VA social workers, who provided us with the names of 558 veterans who needed emergency financial assistance to become or remain housed. The average amount of assistance was \$1,659.

As a follow-up to last month, make sure your local schools received information for the Americanism Essay Contest. Essays should be submitted for judging by December 15.

November also marks the need for us to be active citizens by voting in the election. Election Day is always held on the first Tuesday of November.

In closing, Sue and I wish you and your family a bountiful and relaxing Thanksgiving, always keeping in mind that you can Be The Difference by promoting "Elks Care—Elks Share."

**"Elks Care - Elks Share."**



#### YOUTH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

We have started to sell tickets for our Holiday basket of cheer! Get your ticket now! There will be a member from our committee selling tickets on both wELKome Wednesdays and Friday Night Dinners. You can also see any bartender on duty. They will be sold until the drawing which is December 19th. We will also have our District soccer TBD.

Tom Brown, Youth Activities Chairman

#### OFFICIAL NOTICE

**Samantha Martin, PER**, has entered her name as candidate for Vice President of the Northwest District. The following resolution will be read at our regularly scheduled Lodge Meeting on Tuesday, November 4th and voted on at our Lodge Meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2025.

Barbara Tokar PER,  
Lodge Secretary



**SCAN HERE TO JOIN OUR  
FACEBOOK PAGE & VIEW  
UPCOMING EVENTS!!!**

#### LODGE IMPROVEMENT CORNER

Christmas Trees and wreaths will start to be sold starting after Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve. We will be having a Christmas giving program ... Look for a list to come out soon!

Tom Brown PDD, Chairman of Trustees



## SICKNESS & DISTRESS

We are saddened to announce the passing of **Joseph B. Sacco; Past Exalted Ruler, Veteran** and member for 29 years. Condolences to his family and loved ones during this difficult time. To our absent member.

Thoughts and prayers to our members who are ill, injured or home recovering from recent sickness, injury, surgery or procedures: **Marge & Red Curry, Patsy Schmidt, Patrick LeStrange, Wayne McDonnell, Patty Zdichocki and Trish Hatch.**

Extending well wishes to all our members. If you know of any member in need of our thoughts and prayers please contact me: Lauren Greed (973) 668-6733 or LGreed83@gmail.com.

Lauren Greed, Chairperson



## HOUSE COMMITTEE

Another Tricky Tray under our belt!! A big shout out to **Nancy and Dawn** for leading the way and the house committee for stepping up. Special thanks to all the other volunteers and committees who donated baskets, wrapped and organized baskets. What a great team of Elks coming together! We don't have solid \$\$ amount yet, but we had a great turn out! A big shout out to **Bob Ricker** for being our MC throughout the whole event. We got really great feed back from those who came to participate in our event.

wELKome Wednesdays will continue this month. **THERE WILL NOT BE ELKCOME WEDNESDAY ON NOV 26TH.** Our committees will be taking the month of December off from Wednesday cooking and will be back in January.

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

December 7th is our Absent Member Ceremony to celebrate our members we lost within the year.

Houses Annual Christmas party is Dec. 13th from 1 to 5pm. Stay tuned for more details to be announced!

Breakfast with Santa is December 14th. December 28th our leap in the Lake committee will be holding their first annual penguin races.. sounds like a blast. More details to follow!

New Years Eve is coming up and our ER, Walter Wurster will be running the show.

Mark your calendar and join us for a great November/December fun!

Thank you House for always showing up when needed.

Wishing you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving!  
Debi Werner, House Committee Chairperson

## FRIDAY NIGHT DINNERS

NOVEMBER 7, 2025

MEATLOAF

NOVEMBER 14, 2025

STUFFED PEPPERS

NOVEMBER 21, 2025

MISSISSIPPI POT ROAST

NOVEMBER 28TH

VETERANS COMMITTEE  
SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINER

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED  
IN COOKING A FRIDAY DINNER

PLEASE CONTACT  
DEBI WERNER  
AT 973-668-9302



Lake Hopatcong Elks SCC

Charlie Brown  
Thanksgiving Brunch  
For our Special Children

& Their immediate families

NOVEMBER

28

Friday  
9am - 11am

Volunteers needed  
Contact Heidi or Wayne  
973-545-1557 / 973-841-9845

## VETERANS COMMITTEE

Welcome to November the beginning of the Holiday Season. The Veterans Committee will be very busy this month on November 8. We will have a can at the Walmart in second center from 10 AM to 2 PM

November 11th is our monthly meeting where we will be discussing a lot of actions including Veterans Day also on the 11th the Lodge will be having a Veterans Day ceremony. We have a lot of ideas involving the Veterans at Picatinny Arsenal.

On November 28 the Veterans Committee will be serving our Black Friday meal spaghetti and meatballs! We hope to see our lodge members supporting the committee.

Don't forget our flag display at the flagpole at the end of the parking lot beginning of the parking lot the flags and tags are for our past and present Veterans. I hope you have more flags this year than last year. They are a \$5 donation for the flag and the red tag. On the red tag you put who you want to honor you can just honor America!! Thank you all! Have a happy Holiday Season!!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ed Parrillo, Veteran ~ Committee Chairperson

### VETERANS COMMITTEE 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

2ND TUESDAY EVERY MONTH @ 6:30PM

1<sup>st</sup> Monday  
Every Month 6PM

## MOTORCYCLE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Brian DeVries  
973-934-7347

Lake Hopatcong Elks  
201 Howard Blvd.  
Mt. Arlington







## wELKome

WHO JOINED OCTOBER 28, 2025

### New Member

Thomas M Blewitt

Lisa Hirschfield

Kathleen Manzo

John P. Sheridan

Kelly Trevorow

### Proposed By

Veronica A Bellack

Bill Hirschfield

Heidi Venier

Sue Bruyere

Gary Kelliher, Lodge #2370

Barbara Tokar, PER, Lodge Secretary

Have Yourself A Merry Little Cocktail!

## WAGON OF CHEER



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>

(Winner Need Not Be Present)

**\$5.00 DONATION**

(Support Youth Activities Committee)

Merlot • Cabernet Sauvignon • Paul Masson Brandy • Amaretto

Pinot Noir • Crown Royal Whiskey Sour Mix • Jagermeister

Bacardi Mango Chile • Dewars Scotch • Ménage a Trois Red Blend Wine

Ménage a Trois Merlot • Chardonnay • Bushmills Irish Whiskey

Baileys • Bacardi Rum • Fireball • Tanqueray Gin • Barefoot Apple Wine

Jack Daniels: Honey, Regular & Fire

Riesling Wine • Jose Cuervo Tequila • Aspen Vodka

Assorted Snacks • Christmas Bags, Towels & Mitts



## SPECIAL CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

2025 Trunk or Treat is in the books, and we could not have asked for a better day...blue skies, not too cold, and lots of smiles! The 16th annual trunk or treat for our special children had a great turn out all around – from our kids and their families to all the volunteers. The parking lot was full of people and festive fun! Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who showed up, dressed up and out did themselves with their decorations and goodies. Our Special kids and young adults, along with their families could not stop raving during and after the event. We have received a lot of wonderful compliments and thank you's. We are the chairs of this committee, but without all of you volunteering time and time again to help us execute these ideas and events it would not be possible.

### A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO VOLUNTEERED TO DECORATE THEIR TRUNKS AND HAND OUT CANDY / GOODIES / GIFTS:

Christa Anderson	Mike Pizzulli
Pete & Jen Appaluccio	Kathleen Caffrey
Jill & Jean Ayers	Dorothy Cirelli
Dona & Joyce	Mary Bridgewater & Kerri
John Perry & Flo Hillyard	Jason Howard
Jim & Jackie Burkley	Kayla O'Brien
Brian Devries & Sam Corujo	Ruth Anne
Mark Bishop (Meatball)	Kim O'Brien
Chris & Nancy Loizou	Tina Kraus
Tom Dockendorf	Sheila Speroni
John McAteer (Freak)	Kathy Venier
Brian Clark	Theresa Fiorentino
Kevin Clark	Lauren Greed
Bob Nock	Amanda Gladish
Chris Hayden	Erin Ronchetta
Lori Catlano	Barbara Pirro
Lisa Rovito	The Hanley Family
Walter Wurster	The Entire 782 MC Committee!



If we missed anyone on the list above (taken from our volunteer sign in sheet), please know that we do appreciate you and it was not intentional!

We have shared some pictures from Trunk or Treat here, but to see more amazing pics of all our kids and the volunteers, please visit the lodge Facebook page.

Our next holiday event is our Charlie Brown Thanksgiving Brunch which will be held on the morning of Black Friday, 11/28 from 9am to 11am. We will be at the lodge starting at 7:00am to cook and 8:00am for those helping with set up. We need volunteers to assist with cooking/food prep, runners, servers, set up / clean up, and a host/hostess or two for seating families. We will have a lot going on in two short hours, so the more people who can assist the better. We will need to ensure that we are done and cleaned up and have the room ready for the Veterans Committee Black Friday Spaghetti Dinner, so any help would be greatly appreciated. Please sign up by contacting via text – Heidi 973-545-1557 or Wayne 973-841-9845. Anyone who wishes to get on our volunteer list so we can keep you up to date, we have a Team Reach group – Download the Team Reach app and join by using the group code – SCC782.

On Sunday, November 2nd from 9am to 1pm the Northwest District will be holding a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser at Sussex Elks Lodge. 100% of the proceeds will go directly to support Caden Flores and his family against his brave fight against cancer. Cost is \$15 PP, and seats can be reserve by contacting either Wayne or Heidi. You can also Venmo @Boontonelks1405, please note in comments how many in your party OR make a donation to the family by adding comment 'donation for Caden.' As of this newsletter the MC's have a total of 17 members attending the breakfast along with us, so we have a great crowd going out to support Caden. If anyone wants to jump in to support this event and join us, please let us know or just show up – walk in's welcome!

Until the next time...Have a great big, beautiful tomorrow! Heidi & Wayne McDonnell, Co-Chairs

As the days grow shorter and autumn settles in, November invites us to pause and reflect on the spirit of service that defines our lodge community. It's a time to celebrate the impact we've made and to look ahead with purpose and enthusiasm. October was a month filled with energy, generosity, and meaningful engagement and thanks to the dedication of our members and supporters, we've reached some exciting milestones.

We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who purchased sneakers and joined us for the District Walk Out on Drugs on October 5th in Parsippany. Between the Walk Out and the District Red Ribbon Dance, we proudly met our fundraising goal of \$1,000 to support Peer Leadership programs.

On October 9th, we had the 7th Annual Gerry Cook PSP Drug Awareness Golf Outing at Farmstead Country Club. The weather was beautiful, the camaraderie was strong, and the day was filled with laughter and purpose. We're grateful to all who participated and helped make the event a success.

The First Annual District Red Ribbon Dance, held on October 25th at Lake Hopatcong, was a standout moment of the month. Guests from around the district embraced the 1980s theme with enthusiasm, dressing in retro outfits and dancing the night away to great music. This event was a great team effort by the Northwest District. Special thanks go to our **District Chair Lisa Rovito, PDD for this great event, as well as our libation experts, Nancy and Kim, who kept everyone refreshed, and Debi Werner, Tina Kraus, and Matthew Martin for their behind-the-scenes contributions that ensured the evening ran smoothly. Their efforts helped create a fun, memorable event** that also advanced our drug awareness mission.

Looking ahead, we encourage everyone to stay engaged with our upcoming Drug Awareness initiatives and deadlines:

- Peer Leadership and Path to Peer Leadership Applications Are Now Open

High school students (grades 9–12) are invited to apply for the Peer Leadership Conference, held February 6th thru 8th. Spots are limited, so don't wait—secure your place today: <https://form.jotform.com/njelksdap/peer2026>

Middle school students (grades 6–8) can apply for the Path to Peer Leadership program, scheduled for February 5th: <https://form.jotform.com/njelksdap/path2026>

- Drug Awareness Program (DAP) Contest

This year's theme is "Drugs Are a Grave Mistake." We invite students to participate in one of the following categories:

- Poster Contest (Grades 3–5)
- Essay Contest (Grades 6–8)
- Video Contest (High School Students)

Full contest details and guidelines are available at DAP <https://www.elks.org/dap/resources/contests.cfm> Entries must be submitted by November 24th for local judging. Winners will advance to district, state, and potentially national levels, with national winners featured on [elkskidszone.org](http://elkskidszone.org) and in ENF or DAP publications.

If you have any questions about these programs or contests, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or our District Chair, Lisa Rovito.

Fraternally, Samantha P. Martin PER,  Drug Awareness Chairperson



As the crisp air settles in and autumn leaves blanket the ground, November brings a season of reflection, gratitude, and continued service. The Antlers have been busy making a meaningful impact throughout October, and we're excited to share highlights from their recent activities and upcoming opportunities to get involved.

The month began with the District Walk Out on Drugs, held on October 5th in Parsippany. The Antlers joined fellow participants in raising awareness and funds for Peer Leadership programs, demonstrating their dedication to youth empowerment and healthy choices.

On October 17th, Past President Adrianna Martin proudly presented a \$100 donation to the annual Pink Witches Night Out event. This heartfelt tradition honors a local woman each year who is courageously battling breast cancer. This year's beneficiary was Francesca Esposito, a 28-year-old mother whose strength and resilience inspired all in attendance. **Adrianna's** support didn't stop there—just days later, she volunteered at the Motorcycle Committee's Camp Moore fundraiser on October 24th, further exemplifying the Antlers' spirit of service.

In addition to these events, the Antlers organized a flash sale of lodge shirts promoting breast cancer awareness. Proceeds from the sale were directed toward Peer Leadership initiatives. The response was enthusiastic, and we extend our sincere thanks to everyone who purchased a shirt. May you wear them proudly and in good health.

The Antlers also played a part in the District Red Ribbon Dance at Lake Hopatcong on October 25th.

Throughout the month, the Antlers continued their regular support of lodge activities, including Friday Night Dinners and wELKome Wednesdays. Their presence and participation at various events reflect a deep commitment to both fellowship and community service.

And now, for some exciting news, our beloved Wreath & Sip event is on! Stay tuned for the official date and time, which will be announced soon. We look forward to gathering once again for creativity, camaraderie, and seasonal cheer.

The Antlers always have exciting activities in the pipeline, so stay tuned for updates or spontaneous events. We are looking to grow our membership, which is open to individuals aged 12 to 20 who are U.S. citizens of good character and believe in the existence of God. It is a fantastic time to be an Antler, and we encourage more youth to join. Applications and brochures are available in the front lobby of the lodge.

The Antlers do amazing work and have a great time serving both the community and the lodge. Lastly, thank you for your continued donations to the clothing bins, which enable monthly contributions to their favorite charities.

Remember: Antlers today, Elks tomorrow!

Fraternally, Samantha P. Martin PER,  Antler Chairperson



**Resolution in Support of Samantha P. Martin for the Position of Vice President Representing the Northwest District**

**Whereas:** Samantha P. Martin has been a dedicated member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks for twenty-three years, she was initiated on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2003; having joined the Dover/Rockaway Lodge and subsequently becoming a member of Lake Hopatcong Lodge No. 782 following its merger; and

**Whereas:** She has honorably served her lodge in numerous capacities, including Inner Guard (2003–2004), Esquire (2004–2005, 2025–2026), Esteemed Lecturing Knight (2005–2006, 2024–2025), Esteemed Loyal Knight (2006–2007), Esteemed Leading Knight (2022–2023), and Exalted Ruler (2023–2024); and

**Whereas:** She was a member of the State Championship Ritual Team (2022–2023), recognized as an All-State Officer in her role as Esteemed Leading Knight (2022–2023), and member of the Final Four Ritual Team at the National Ritual Contest, achieving second place nationally in 2023; and

**Whereas:** She has served as Chairperson of numerous Lodge Committees, including Lodge Activities (2003–2007), Scholarship (2003–2007), Elks National Foundation (2004–2006), Bar (2003–2007, 2009–2013), Antlers (2022–2023, 2024–Present), Drug Awareness (2024–Present), and the House Committee, where she acted as Chairperson during a prolonged illness (2022–2023). She has also served on the Special Children’s Committee (2003–2007), the Veterans Committee (2003–2007), PER Association (2022–Present), the Motorcycle Committee (2003–Present); and

**Whereas:** She is an Advisor to the Antlers and has been an active participant at the Path & Peer Leadership Conferences, serving in multiple capacities (2021–Present); and

**Whereas:** She currently serves as District Chairperson for both Membership and Youth Activities (2024–Present), having achieved a notable increase in membership during her tenure; and

**Whereas:** Under her leadership as Exalted Ruler, Lake Hopatcong Lodge earned first place obtaining the Governor’s Trophy at the New Jersey State Elks Wildwood Convention Parade in June 2023; and

**Whereas:** She has been recognized with numerous honors, including Grand Exalted Ruler’s Making a Difference Special Citation (2022–2023), Grand Exalted Ruler’s award for excellence in membership (2023), Officer of the Year (2004–2005, 2022–2023), the State President’s Commendation for achieving a membership level of 700 members as Exalted Ruler (2023–2024), the Jay Ligett Award for first place Esteemed Leading Knight (2022–2023), and first place awards in the NJ State Elks Association Northwest District Flag Salute and 11 O’clock Toast Contest (October 2023), the NJ State Parade as Exalted Ruler (2023), and the Honor Guard (2022); and

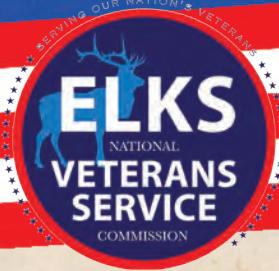
**Whereas** She graduated from William Paterson University with a Bachelor of Science in Radio and Television Broadcasting; and

**Whereas** She has been employed with Dell Technologies for twenty-five years, serving as a Program/Project Manager focused on Product Marketing and Customer Success; and

**Whereas** She was an active member of the PTA serving as the Schools Field Day Chairperson at Stony Brook School (2014–2020), and the chairperson for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Activities in (2017, 2020), and

**Whereas** She was on the Board of the Rockaway Township Soccer Association (2010–2022, served as the Uniform Chairperson and Vendor relationship manager (2012–2022), and Coached Recreation and Travel Soccer (2010–2022); and

**Whereas:** She has been married to her husband Eric, for twenty-six years, who is also a member of Lake Hopatcong Lodge No. 782 and their two children, Adrianna and Matthew, who serve as officers of Lake Hopatcong Antlers #4.



# Honor A Service Member

**Dedicate A Flag & Place The Name of The Honored Person On The Tag**



Purchase A Flag For  
\$5.00 To Be Placed In  
The Field of Memories  
On Our Lodge Grounds

Dedicate A Flag To  
Someone Who We Have Lost,  
To A Veteran Or Active Military.  
*All Who Have Made A Difference!*

Flags Are Available At The Lodge.  
Any Questions/Concerns Please Call  
Ed Parrillo 973-479-7696

Lake Hopatcong Elks 782  
201 Howard Boulevard  
Mount Arlington, NJ 07856

(All Proceeds The Veterans Committee)

FAX: (773) 755-4905

PHONE: (773) 755-4904

Email: RickG@elks.org



MEMBERSHIP/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Rick Gathen  
Director

*A Fraternal Organization*

2750 N. Lakeview Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60614-1889

## MEDIA ALERT –NOTICE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### NOVEMBER IS ELKS VETERANS REMEMBRANCE MONTH

**Chicago, IL — October 22, 2025:**

In an enduring tribute to America's heroes, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has once again proclaimed **November as Elks Veterans Remembrance Month**. Elks National President **Bryan Klatt** encourages every Lodge and community to honor those who have worn our nation's uniform—living out this year's theme: "*Be the Difference*".

“The highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them.”

— President and proud Elk member **John F. Kennedy**

#### A Century of Commitment

For more than 157 years, the Elks have upheld a simple yet powerful promise: “**So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.**” Through the **Elks National Veterans Service Commission**, **1,837 Lodges** across the country provide vital support to veterans in need—delivering meals and clothing, funding housing for homeless veterans, hosting holiday celebrations, and offering fellowship to those who served. In the past year alone, Elks volunteers dedicated **over 800,000 hours** and contributed **more than \$56 million** in aid and services to veterans. From delivering food and hygiene kits to VA hospitals, to furnishing “Welcome Home” apartments for formerly homeless veterans, Elks remain a steadfast ally to America's defenders.

#### Join the Elks in Service

Every November—and every month of the year—Elks Lodges stand united in gratitude and service. Americans are encouraged to participate in local Lodge activities, volunteer in veterans' programs, or explore membership in this all-American organization. To find your nearest Lodge or learn more about the Elks' mission, visit [www.Elks.org](http://www.Elks.org). For membership information, visit [JoinElks.org](http://JoinElks.org).

#### About the Elks

With nearly **800,000 members** nationwide, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is one of America's largest and most active fraternal organizations—dedicated to charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity. Through service and compassion, the Elks continue to *Be the Difference* in communities across the nation.

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks • Grand Lodge

*Elks* Care – *Elks* Share

**November 2025**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 
2 	MOTORCYCLE COMMITTEE MEETING 6:00PM	3 LODGE MEETING	4	5 <b>WELKOME WEDNESDAY</b>	6 Friday Night Dinner	7
9 	10	11 HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING VETERANS COMMITTEE MEETING 6:30PM	12 <b>WELKOME WEDNESDAY</b>	13	14 Friday Night Dinner	15
16	17 LODGE MEETING	18	19 <b>WELKOME WEDNESDAY</b>	20	21 Friday Night Dinner	22
23	24 HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING	25	26	27 	28 	29
30						

**WELKOME WEDNESDAY**

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

**ALL ARE WELKOME**

**WINE DOWN WITH US!**

**DRINK SPECIALS**

**DINE IN OR TAKE OUT**

**BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**









**FOOD, SOUP & DRINK SPECIALS**

**You Do Not Need To Be A Member To Join Us!!**



### LAKE HOPATCONG ELKS LODGE

No. 782

201 Howard Boulevard  
Mount Arlington, NJ 07856

