The Elks Reporter



Lake Hopatcong Elks Lodge #782

Meetings 1st and 3rd Tuesday

(973) 398-9835







cember 2023

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



Well, it's here the final page of the calendar for 2023. I am not sure how; I feel like I blinked and here we are in December. As we transition from Thanksgiving and start our holiday shopping let's look back at our achievements of November. At Fall Conference they announced that as a state that we donated over 2 million dollars to NJ charities, our state major project, and in our communities. You all should be proud to be part of such a huge accomplishment. It just goes to show you Elks are the Best People on Earth! Our Honor Guard did a beautiful job representing us during the opening at Fall Conference, thank you to **State President Joe Pedone** for asking us. I had the pleasure of representing the District and our lodge at the Flag Salute and 11 O'clock toast competition. The contestants all did a beautiful job and I promise you Ritual is alive and well in the state of NJ. The scores were very close, congrats to my Peer in the **East Central District John Kretchmer** best wishes to him in Austin! **Adrianna Martin** our Antler 1st Vice President attended fall conference with me. She had the honor of meeting our **GER Randy Shook and Wanda**, as well as speaking with our own PGER **Malcolm McPherson and Pat**. The Antlers are alive and well in NJ "Antlers today Elks tomorrow!"

For those who made it to the Tricky Tray it was a huge success selling out in record time. I can't thank everyone enough from donations, to shopping, to basket making, and working the event it takes a village! Youth Activities were busy as well with their soccer shoot, wing night, and paint & sip. The MC's made us a fantastic roast beef dinner for Friday night dinner and cheese steaks for our last Thirsty Thursday of the year. Don't worry, Thirsty Thursday will be back in January!!!!

The Veterans Committee held a beautiful Veterans Day service, complete with a field of flags dedicated to our own loved ones. If you purchased a flag tag from Ed, thank you for making this event extra special. I hope it meant as much to you as it did to me. They also had a nice turn out of Veterans at Birchwood Manor for their annual roast beef dinner. It's nice to see the veterans getting out for these events again. The committee was super busy last month as they also held their annual Black Friday spaghetti dinner. If you didn't make it, you really missed out, the meatballs were outstanding. What a great and fun kitchen staff, we had a lot of laughs!

I also had the honor of presenting a check on behalf of our lodge to the United Methodist Church to help them with their food pantry. Once again, Duffy's is back selling his amazing trees, if you need a tree or wreath stop by and see him. Finally, we brought in 10 new members, remember your enthusiasm to do good is infectious keep it going, you all are outstanding!

This month is probably one of the busiest of the year. We start every December by remembering our departed members at our annual memorial service which takes place the first Sunday of December, please join us on the 3rd as we honor those who left this year.

On Tuesday, the 5th our lodge has its Official visit with **District Deputy Kathleen Caffrey**, please come out and help us welcome her home! The 6th is the Antler's Wreath & Sip at Nesters, see a bartender for tickets.

Then watch as the lodge miraculously turns into Santa's workshop getting ready for holiday appeal, the elves will be wrapping gifts and packing food boxes in preparation for pick up on the 17^{th.} Holiday Appeal is one of our lodge's largest community outreach programs. Just knowing you brought joy to a child who may have had little to nothing under their tree and on their table is food for your soul! If you haven't been part of our holiday appeal program in the past, please consider helping those families in need during the holiday season by reaching out to **Linda Gathen PDD** and adopt a family. The Antlers have adopted two families and will be shopping on the 2nd so we just might see you on those lines, wave if you see us! Additionally, if you have a love of wrapping let us know and we will happily put your talents to work. ©

The morning of the 17th is Breakfast with Santa, in addition to the Jolly man himself I hear Mrs. Claus, Frosty, and the head Elf will all be there to welcome our community. That afternoon we will be having our Doo-Wop Holiday Party, it's going to be a Great Day I can just feel it! On the 21st the Special Children's Committee will have a holiday book reading with Santa from 5-7.

On the 31st we will be counting down to the New Year with an amazing night of dinner and dancing with Four Man Trio! Join us as they perform your favorites from the 50's, 60's, 70's & 80's. See the flyer below for additional Information.

My challenge this month is to celebrate the year in review! Be thankful for all you have accomplished and take lessons for those moments you fell short as we ring in the new year let go of the negativity and hold on to only the kindness! Start the year off on a positive note and as we prepare for our own holiday gatherings, please keep in mind those serving home and aboard who afford us our freedoms.

Finally, from my family to yours we wish you all a safe and blessed holiday season, and a happy & 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

Matthew Winnans, PVP **Esquire**

201-572-8297

Walter Wurster Chaplain **Inner Guard** Sheila Speroni

973-229-8254

Tiler Lisa Rovito, PER

201-978-7218

Treasurer Linda Gathen, PDD

973-398-2097

Barbara Tokar, PER Secretary

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 Salliemae 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 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 Pete Appaluccio, PDD **Elks National Foundation** 973-736-7818 Flag Day Linda Gathen, PDD 973-398-2097 **Fraternal Committee** Linda Gathen, PDD 973-398-2097 **Goverment Relations** Barbara Tokar, PER 201-207-7545 **Grounds Maintenance** Trustees Dehi Werner **Hall Rental** 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 Tustees) 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 Winnians, PVP 201-572-8297

Tom Brown, PDD

973-919-5395

31

Lisa Adams

Youth Activities

Llanny Dintlad

Hap	py Birthday
01	Donna Falzarano
01	Heidi Mc Donnell
03	Richard Byrd
04	Robert M Edwards
05	Marvin Heiskanen
06	Erin De La Cruz
06	John R Merlino
06	Leon J Moreau
06	Erin Ronchetta
07	Robert Corcoran
08	Carol A Boyle
08	Marylyn DeLancey
08	• •
08	Gregory O'Brien
	Franklin J Quimby
08	Frank J Spano
09	Marty Kane
09	Kathryn Venier
10	Sophia Bonadeo
10	Donald Ellis
11	Joann Grady
11	Laura Schroeder
12	Mary Monteiro
12	James S Siuzdak
13	Wayne Mc Donnell
13	Joseph Pennino
14	Yvonne loffredo
14	Shirlley Cooper Losak
15	Stephen J Leonard
15	Christine Malloy
15	Robert Rogalsky
15	Karl H Then
16	Elizabeth Nelson
18	Christopher Garcia
18	John Nadzeika
20	Linda Flatt
20	David G Moran Jr
20	John Reynolds
21	Elizabeth Jackson
21	Marilyn Miller
21	Pamela Ricker
21	Lester E Wright
22	Nicholas Pignatello
22 23	Thomas Whelan Howard Liebmann
23	Carol Pezzicara
24	Hollie Buff
24	Robert A Deiorio
24	Catherine Paluzzi
26	Louis P Pettinato
26	Joseph S Rutkoski III
26	Michelle S Terpstra
28	Dominick D'Altilio
29	Donna Rose Kupper



"Elks Give from the Heart"

Randy P. Shook

GRAND EXALTED RULER

2023-2024

"We Are The Elks."



There are so many ways to reflect during the month of December.

As Elks, on Sunday, December 3 we pay a just tribute of affection and honor to all of the Members who no longer answer when their names are called. The Elks Memorial Service is a very solemn day when we hear the chimes of Eleven ring in honor of our deceased Members. The Members we honor on Memorial Sunday spent many hours of service to their Lodge. It is a fitting tribute to them to have their families with us at this ceremony as their names shall endure forever in our tablets of love and memory. "An Elk is never forgotten, never forsaken." May all of our deceased Brothers and Sisters rest in peace.

Pearl Harbor Day is a time to remember and honor all who died in the horrific attack on December 7, 1941. President Franklin D. Roosevelt stated in a speech to congress that the bombing of Pearl Harbor was a date which will live in infamy. Please take the time to lower the flag to half staff on Pearl Harbor Day in honor of all who perished in this horrific attack.

We will all be very busy with family and friends, shopping, sending cards and waiting for Santa to bring those very special gifts. The Christmas season brings out the best in Elks. Christmas baskets will be distributed by our great volunteers spreading goodwill and cheer during this season. Needy families will have presents under their trees and food on their table because of the efforts of Elks throughout the country. While we should always be aware of those in need, this is a time when we seem to have a greater sense of family and those who need our assistance. It is this time of the year Elks really show their communities "We Are THE Elks."

Wanda and I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas. May the joy and happiness of the Christmas season be with you always. Have a very safe holiday season.

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

"Eks Care-Eks Share."

YOUTH ACTIVIES COMMITTE

We had successfully soccer shoot on November 4th at our lodge with all our kids moving on to Districts December 14th in Lester C. Noecker School at 6:00pm in Roseland. Good luck to all! We sold out our Paint & Sip on on November 29th. The drawing for the Basket of Cheer is December 15th with over 200 tickets sold. Hoop Shoot is December 8th at the Hopatcong High School at 6:00pm is registration for girls and boys 8-13. Lastly we will back in January for wing night on Thirsty Thursday. Thank you to the Committe for all the hard work!















SICKNESS & DISTRESS

Best wishes to our **Exaulted Ruler, Samantha Martin,** for a speedy recovery as she undergoes surgery on December 5th. Also wishing the best of luck to our active members **Joyce O'Donnell and Kim Douglas** as both undergo surgery in December as well.

Condolences and prayers to our member **Jeanette Czipo**. We are so sorry for the loss of your beloved brother, Alfred Delvey.

Well wishes for our **PERS**, **Heidi & Wayne McDonnell's mother**, **Audrey Thompson** and to **Derya & Sean McMillan's father** as they are both thankfully home from hospital continuing their healing.

Continued prayers for **Madelyn Walrod**, **PER** in hopes her vision improves. Thinking of **Red Curry** as he is on the upswing from a recent surgery and feeling good! We miss seeing him at the lodge!

Keeping our member, **Anthony Sessa's mother, Mrs. Sessa** in our thoughts and prayers as she continues her healing in the hospital. We hope to see you home soon!

To all members who are experiencing any sickness or health issues during this holiday season we wish you well. If you know someone who is in need of our prayers please contact me @ (973) 668-6733.

Lauren Greed, Chairperson

HOUSE COMMITTEE

We have a busy and exciting month ahead. Due to all the events that are happening, Thirsty Thursdays are taking the month of December off and will start up again in January.

December 3rd, our beautiful service of Remerbrance done by our lodge officers. In honor of our absent members we lost in 2023. There will be coffee and pastries served at10am and service to follow at 11am.

On December 6th Antlers are holding their fundraiser at Nesters Greenhouse in Byram township.. come out and design your own wreath \$40. and all art supplies provided by Nesters.

December 8th our Youth Committee will be holding their annual hoop shoot at Hopatcong High School. See flyer in newsletter for details.

December 17th is a big day!! We have Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Clause with a very special visit by Frosty! Following at 2pm we have our Doo Wop Christmas Party hosted by House. It is complete with full buffet & live music. Tickets are going fast!! Only \$30 for an afternoon of fun! Finally Dec. 31st is our **NEW YEAR EVE DINNER DANCE!** We will have a live band "Four Man Trio" featuring a blend of music from the 60s, motown, blues and 70s! Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more details ont he event. We will have a champagne toast at midnight. The event starts at 8pm and goes til 1am 2024!! We are more then half way through tickets. Limited tickets available!! Please call Debi at (973) 668-9302, to reserve your tickets.

A very Merry Christmas to all our members and their family and a safe and Happy New Year.

Debi Werner, House Committee Chairperson



FRIDAY NIGHT DINNERS

December 1, 2023

Chicken Marsala with Mashed Potatoes & Green Beans

December 8, 2023

Mississippi Pot Roast

December 15, 2023 Stuffed Shells With Bacon

December 22, 2023 LOOKING FOR A COOK

December 29, 2023

Baked Ham



Proposed By

Craig Karnitzky

Laura Lee Madonia

Dana Tyndall

Joe Pennino

Joe Pennino

Walter Wurster

Walter Wurster

Amanda Gladish

Robin Kesselmeyer

Sallimae Johnson

Amanda Gladish

Barbara Tokar





Who Joined Us On October 24, 2023

New Member

Deborah Ambrose Steven Antoniello Frank W. Barile Mary Lou Kennedy Thomas Kennedy Barbara Kraus Ronald Kraus James A. Laurora Paul Thomas Natoli

Elizabeth Overko-Carter Anthony Perolizzi Kenneth M. Sterzer

~ Welcome Back Roy Winfield ~

Barbara Tokar, PER, Lodge Secretary



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



wELKome to the month of Christmas. The Veterans Committee held a service at our flag pole on Veterans Day, NOvember 11th. We displayed flags purchased by members and guests in honor of their family members and friends. Nearly 200 flags were sold. We hope next year to double that number! The Northwest District had our Veterans Roast Beef Dinner at the Birchwood Manor in Whippany. There were approximately 60 veterans in attendance. Our lodge provided 2 tables of toiletries and additional items for the Veterans to choose from which includedknitted hats, scarves and lap blankets by the Ridgewood ladies organization. Thank you so much! They loved them and were very grateful to receive them. We had a table of sweatshirts and T-shirts from our district. Mark your calendars for an upcoming date of December 17 which is Breakfast with Santa followed by a Christmas Party. There will be a Doo-Wop band for entertainment. Going to be a great day!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas to our members and their families. Have a very happy and healthy New Year.

Ed Parrillo, Veterans Committee Chairperson







VETERAN'S COMMITTEE FINAL MEETING OF 2023 • DECEMBER 13



SPECIAL CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

Hello All

Welcome to December. As we come to the end of 2023, please take the time to reflect on all the things you and your families are thankful for as we celebrate this holiday season.

We have 2 events we are promoting.

The Northwest District has its Annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 9th. It will be held at the Parsippany Lodge from 12:00-2:00pm. Food, entertainment and Santa Claus will be on hand to give out gifts to the Special Children in attendance. It will be a fun day for the families.

We have on Thursday, December 21st at the lodge from 5:00-7:00pm a reading by Santa Claus, "A Night Before Christmas." Special Children and their families will enjoy Hot Chocolate and toppings and Ginger Bread house assembly.

Please RSVP to Heidi via Team Reach for these events if you want to attend to help or if you know any Special Children's families that may be new to our group.

As always please be safe, and may God bless all of you and our Special Children's families that we continue to serve. Have a great Holiday season and Happy New Year and we look forward to 2024!

As Heidi always says,

"Have a Great, Big Beautiful Tomorrow!"

Wayne McDonnell, PER Co-Chair Special Children's Committee

ANTLERS CORNER

The Antlers will be holding our annual "Make and Take-Snack and Sip" event on Wednesday December 6, 2023 at Nester's Greenhouse at 234 Stanhope Sparta Road #2988 in Byram Township from 7 to 9pm. It is a BYOB and shareable snack event where you are provided with everything needed to make a Holiday Wreath, Grave Blanket or Kissing Ball. The cost is \$40 per person, tickets are going fast but there are still a few tickets left. Everyone that attended last year had a great time so come join us for an evening of crafts and fun. We are planning another Make your own Mozzarella event in the near future so check your bulletin for updates. 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. We held a meeting on November 18th to go over the applications for the conferences and they are all so excited to attend!

On Saturday December 2, 2023 the Antlers will be spending a day shopping for this year's Holiday Appeal as they are adopting families as they have in the past. They enjoy shopping and wrapping gifts for the families followed by a lunch.

The Antlers continue to serve Friday Night Dinners and are doing an amazing job. They also volunteer for special events and will be volunteering for Breakfast with Santa on December 17th. 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. This month's donation will be made to St Hubert's Animal Welfare Center.

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

> Wishing Everyone A Happy Holiday Season!! Fraternally, Lisa Rovito PER





























DOO WOP CHRISTMAS PARTY

Featuring The Jersey Tones

DECEMBER 17TH 2:00PM-6:00PM

Lake Hopatcong Elks · 201 Howard Boulevard · Mt. Arlington

\$30.00 PER PERSON

Charcuterie Boards · Ceasar Salad
Chicken Parmesan · Sausage, Peppers & Onions · Bang Bang Chicken
Penne With Smoked Gouda Sauce · Roasted Potatoes
Dessert · Coffee · Cash Bar

LIMITED TICKET SALES

For Reservations Please Call Debi Werner at 973-668-9302



A Special Visit From Santa ... Don't Forget To Bring Your Camera For A Picture To Remember!"

201 Howard Boulevard • Mount Arlington, NJ 07856 • 973-398-9835

AUL YOU CAN EAT BREAKEACH BUFFET

ADULTS \$8.00 • KIDS \$3.00

All Children 10 & Under Will Receive A Free Gift From Santa



LIMITED TICKETS SALES - SEE ANY BARTENDER

FOR MORE INFORMATION/DETAILS CALL: DEBI WERNER 973-668-9302
LAKE HOPATCONG ELKS • 201 HOWARD BLVD., Mt. ARLINGTON, NJ

2023 DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NO THI	RSTY THURSDA	1 Friday Night Dinner	2			
3	4 Ritual Practice Motorcycle Committee Meeting 6pm	5 LODGE MEETING	MAKE & TAKE SNACK & SIP	7 DARTS	8 Friday Night Dinner Hoop Shoot	9
10	11 Ritual Practice	12 HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING	13 Veterans Committee Meeting	DARTS	15 Friday Night Dinner	16
Breakfa with Sa 9am-11 Christm Party 2	nta Ritual Practice am as	19 LODGE MEETING	20	DARTS	22 Friday Night Dinner	23
24	Merry Christmas	26 HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING	27	DARTS	29 Friday Night Dinner	30
31						



BURHERS • HOT DOGS • BBQ CHICKEN
BAKED BEAKS • MAC-U-CHEESE • PASTA SAMD

\$25.00 ADVANCE • \$30.00 DAY OF EVENT

LIVE MUSIC • 50/50

BEER • WINE • SODA PACKAGE AVAILABLE

~ CASH BAR ALSO AVAILABLE ~





LAKE HOPATCONG ELKS LODGE #782 201 HOWARD BOULEVARD MOUNT ARINGTON, N.I. 07856

TICKETS ON SALE SOON!

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)



2024 JANUARY

			WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	2024	2 LODGE MEETING	3	4 DARTS	5 Friday Night Dinner	6
,	8 Motorcycle Committee Meeting 6pm	9 HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING	10	DARTS	12 Friday Night Dinner	13
14	15 Ritual Practice	16 LODGE MEETING	17	DARTS	19 Friday Night Dinner	20
21	22 Ritual Practice	HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING	24	DARTS	26 Friday Night Dinner	27
28	29 Ritual Practice	30	31			



LAKE HOPATCONG ELKS LODGE

No. 782

201 Howard Boulevard Mount Arlington, NJ 07856

