TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

AN INDOCTRINATION GUIDE

ABOUT

THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AND ABOUT THE

COVENTRY – WEST GREENWICH, RHODE ISLAND LODGE #2285

AND ABOUT THE

RHODE ISLAND STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION

Coventry-West Greenwich Lodge
No. 2285, B.P.O. Elks

42 Nooseneck Hill Road
West Greenwich, RI 02817

Elks Care - Elks Share
Coventry-West Greenwich Lodge #2285
Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
of the United States of America

LODGE OFFICERS 2009-2010

Exalted Ruler ............................................ Cheryl Levesque
Esteemed Leading Knight ......................... Joseph A. St. Jean
Esteemed Loyal Knight .............................. William E. Hagenburg
Esteemed Lecturing Knight ....................... Rosemarie Besson
Secretary ................................................ Melissa J. Hagenburg
Treasurer ................................................ Debra Anctil
Tiler ........................................................ Timothy Gore
Esquire ..................................................... Nancy L. St. Jean
Chaplain ................................................... John Lamantia
Inner Guard ............................................. Francis Dolan

Trustees .................................................... Frederick Webber
                                            Francis Murphy
                                            John F. Kirkconnell
                                            Robert Guastini
                                            Brenda Dickinson

Coventry – West Greenwich Elks #2285
42 Nooseneck Hill Road
West Greenwich, RI 02817
Lodge Telephone: 401-397-3700
Website: http://elks.org/lodges/home.cfm?LodgeNumber=2285
April 1, 2009

To Our New Members:

Congratulations on deciding to become a member of the finest fraternal organization in the United States. We hope you will engage yourself in the charitable works our Order supports and see for yourself the end product of your endeavors.

The following pages contain information about the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Rhode Island State Elks Association and Coventry-West Greenwich Lodge #2285. Please take the time to read the history and accomplishments of our great Order and its entities. I think you will find it one of the most informative booklets available concerning the Elks.

The business of the Lodge is conducted during Lodge meetings and I urge you to attend all meetings you can. In order to meet new friends and possibly reacquaint yourself with old ones, you should utilize the social functions offered by the Lodge.

Again, congratulations on becoming a member of the BPOE, the Best People On Earth.

Fraternally,

Cheryl Levesque
Cheryl Levesque, Exalted Ruler
Introduction to Elkdom

The Order of Elks is an organization of American citizens who inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; and promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of their fellow members; and quicken the spirit of American patriotism.

The Order is not concerned with one’s political affiliations, and it does not permit either religion or politics to be injected into, or to have any affect upon its fraternal deliberations, national or local.

It lures no member to its doors by any promised material benefits which might appeal to their self interest. It pledges no support to the furtherance of personal ambitions. It has no insurance feature to appeal to one’s sense of economy. It is beneficent, not merely benevolent, and believes that doing good is better than merely being good. It teaches that it is nobler to serve than to be served; that laughter is better than tears; a kind word more potent than a frown; and that life is all the sweeter for a song.

The Order of Elks is best served through the existence of informed members concerned with just what a member receives when they join the Lodge. Members must be told of the principles of the order, the activities and facilities it has to offer, its programs and objectives, and especially of its many benevolence. Through indoctrination we want every Elk to be so knowledgeable of their membership that they will not only take part in the workings of their Lodge, but will also cherish it and keep it for as long as they live.

History of the Elks

The story of the BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS is a story that leads from Broadway, New York City, to Main Street, USA. It begins in November of 1867 with the arrival of Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian to the city of New York. He was the 21 year old son of an English clergyman and would do well in America as a singer and entertainer. His lasting fame, however, would be as the founder of the Order of Elks of the United States.

The original group consisted of 17 members, all associated in some way with the theater. They called themselves the Jolly Corks with Vivian as the Exalted Ruler. Selection of a permanent name brought on great debate. Some suggested “Buffaloes” but that was rejected. It was not until some of the Jolly Corks visited Barnum’s museum and admired the head of the magnificent Elk that a decision was reached. After a recommendation by the appointed committee, a vote was taken. Seven voted for “Buffaloes” and seven for “Elks.” One man switched, and on February 16, 1868 the newly born Order was named “Elks”.

![Originators of the B.P.O.E. 1868](image-url)
THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS is a non-profit fraternal organization that is non-sectarian and non-political. Today there are well over 1.2 million members in over 2,200 lodges in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Canal Zone. The Grand Lodge meets once a year in July at various locations across the nation to conduct the business of the preceding year and install the officers for the forthcoming year. The Grand Secretary maintains an office at the Elks Memorial Building in Chicago, Illinois.

Over the years the Elks have made a name for themselves in many areas. They built and donated a hospital after WWI that became the first Veterans Hospital in America. General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing was allowed to accept the armistice by President Woodrow Wilson and Pershing chose the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour to accept it. You see, General Pershing was an Elk and he knew what the hour of eleven meant to all Elks.

For many years the Elks tried to get the United States government to proclaim a day just for our American Flag. It took another Elk, President Harry S. Truman, to set June 14th as our national Flag Day. Throughout the course of the Order's history, many celebrities from the entertainment field, business and public service have been Elks. Presidents Warren Harding, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman and John Kennedy were all Elks. Former President Gerald Ford belongs to Grand Rapids, Michigan, Lodge, where his father served two terms as Exalted Ruler (Lodge president).

Of course, many members of Congress have been Elks, too. Former Speakers of the House Tip O'Neill, Carl Albert, John McCormick and Sam Rayburn all belonged to the fraternity. Former Speaker Tom Foley belongs to Spokane, Washington Lodge. The late Hale Boggs of Louisiana was also an Elk. Entertainers Lawrence Welk, Will Rogers, Jack Benny and Andy Devine belonged, too. Devine was even Exalted Ruler of San Fernando, California Lodge. Clint Eastwood is a member of the Monterey, California Lodge.

Today, the Elks give more scholarships in number and monetary value than anyone in the free world except the United States government. And, the money for the scholarships does not have to be re-paid.

What An Elks Lodge In Your Community Can Do For Your Community

Elks are Men and Women of your community, and are active people who care about the welfare and progress of their city and community around them. Elks support Young People with Youth Activities programs consisting of those already existing, enhancing those programs, and promoting such programs as:

- Boy & Girl Scouting Programs
- Boys & Girls Clubs
- Scholarships for young people, helping them to obtain their goals and further their education at the colleges and universities of their choice
- Hoop Shoot Free Throw Contest
- Soccer Shoot Program
- Elks don't forget the young people who are special, physically or mentally
- Elks are Patriotic and promote patriotism, flag etiquette and the display of our Nations Flag, parades, memorials and support many other patriotic programs
• Elks have an Active Community Service Program, working with the Local Police and Law Enforcement, the Local Firemen and Fire Departments, Teachers and Counselors, Schools, Citizens and promote Outstanding Recognitions in these careers.
• Elks support and remember our Nations Veterans
• Elks promote an Active and Outstanding Drug Awareness Program through Education
• Elks believe in helping those less fortunate in the community in many and various ways
• Elks bring new ideas and ways to promote the good of our fellow man, through their State and National programs and experiences
• Elks are non-political, non-sectarian people of all religious beliefs and their requirements for membership is belief in God, are an American Citizen and are 21 years of age
• Elks are Voters

**FACTS ABOUT ELKDOM**

*Did You Know*
The value of the Elks' charitable works last year was more than $201 million.

*Did You Know*
Many of the Elk's charitable programs are funded in part by the Elks National Foundation, a perpetual fund with assets exceeding $300 million.

*Did You Know*
Donations to the Foundation's principal fund are never spent; only interest and earnings are used, and all of it goes toward the Foundation's philanthropic work.

*Did You Know*
In 2006-2007, Elks across Rhode Island donated over $38,000 to the Elks National Foundation. As a result, ENF paid out $76,530 to our State through the RI State Elks Association for scholarships, veterans programs, and special needs programs.

*Did You Know*
Last year, the foundation disbursed $11.3 million in support of the "Hoop Shoot", scholarships, veterans service, drug awareness, state major projects and other philanthropic programs.

*Did You Know*
The "Hoop Shoot" is the largest coeducational sports program in the country. More than three million kids participated in this year's contest.

*Did You Know*
The Elks National Foundation annually awards more than $2.1 million in scholarships to a total of 508 students. It also reserves $500,000 for emergency educational grants for children of Elks.

*Did You Know*
The value of the Elks' contributions to veterans service last year was more than $17.6 million.

*Did You Know*
Last year alone, the Elks adopted and befriended 103,000 veterans who were far from home or without Family.

*Did You Know*
The Elks Drug Awareness Program prints and distributes, free of charge, up-to-date information about drugs to schoolchildren, their teachers and their parents. Since the program's inception in 1985, the Elks have distributed more than 103 million pieces of literature.

*Did You Know*
In addition to information about drugs, the Elks provide alternatives to drug use by sponsoring activities ranging from Little League to Scouting. More than 2.8 million kids participated in these Elks-sponsored activities last year.

*Did You Know*
Each State Elks Association has its own major project. These include summer camps for children with disabilities or who are financially disadvantaged; in home treatment for people with disabilities; children's hospitals; cancer research; and providing safe, temporary havens for abused families.

*Did You Know*
In 2,230 communities, men and women of our local Lodges are working to meet local needs, whether that's funding the food bank, supplying instruments for the high school band, or staffing booths at the county fair.

*Did You Know*
We believe in helping others, but we also believe in having fun.

*Did You Know*
Often we manage to combine the two. Some of our Lodges feature swimming pools, golf courses, playrooms and ballrooms; most have dining facilities; all offer family entertainment. We enjoy doing the good works we do and the people we do them with our families and our friends.
"My Obligation"

THE OBLIGATION which I assume to become a member of the Order is an essential part of my initiation and involves certain duties which are necessarily implied, as well as those which are formally expressed.

By that OBLIGATION, so assumed, I become a member of the Order of Elks, not merely a member of my own Lodge. The rights and privileges thereby conferred upon me include the right to attend the meetings of any other subordinate Lodge, and to avail myself of the facilities of any club house maintained by such other Lodge, in accordance with its rules and regulations relating thereto. And I am as much amenable to the Grand Lodge Statutes as I am to the bylaws of my own Lodge.

I am entitled to participate in the deliberations of my own Lodge; and it is my duty to attend its meetings for that purpose, with proper regard for other duties which may also rest upon me. I share the responsibility for its acts; and by my vote in Lodge sessions and by the appropriate exercise of my influence, endeavor to have those acts reflect my own views. But I shall, with good grace, yield to the majority will when it has been duly registered.

The charitable and benevolent activities of my Lodge frequently require the personal attention of members other than its officers. I shall readily respond to an official call upon me for a fraternal service that may be within my reasonable capacity to render.

It is only by the continued display of such a spirit of fraternal cooperation that my Lodge can maintain itself as the instrument of community service it is designed to be. It is only by generously putting my individual service to this fraternal association that I shall secure for myself in greatest measure the satisfaction and happiness which should attend membership in the Order.

Elk’s Obligation

I, (Your Name), in the presence of God and this lodge of Elks, do solemnly promise and swear that I will never reveal any of the confidential matters of this Order which have been, or may hereafter be, committed to my charge and keeping.

I will support the Constitution, and obey the statutes, rules and regulations of this Order, and the by-laws of Coventry-West Greenwich Lodge #2285,and those of any other lodge of which I may hereafter become a member.

I will uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States of America.

I will propose no one for membership in this Order whom I do not sincerely believe to be worthy thereof.

I will ballot for a worthy candidate and against an unworthy candidate when proposed by another.

I will not permit any political, sectarian or personal prejudice to influence me in the slightest degree in the exercise of my right of franchise in the Order.

I will obey any lawful summons sent me by any competent authority of the Order.

I will never apply to the courts for redress in any matter concerning the Order, without first appealing to the councils of the Order.
I will never reveal to anyone, not an Elk, the name of a member asking or receiving aid or relief from the Order.

I will not, directly or indirectly, use my membership in this Order, nor any emblem, insignia or sign thereof, for business or commercial purposes.

I will never introduce into the Order anything of a political or sectarian nature, nor in anyway by my conduct bring reproach upon it.

I will always protect our members, their good names and their families; and I will always respect and defend the purity and sanctity of their homes and firesides.

If I break this obligation, may I wander through the world forsaken; may I be pointed out as a being bereft of decency, unfit to hold communion with true and faithful members. And may God help me, and keep me steadfast in this my solemn and binding obligation in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America. Amen

How Do I Become an Elk?

1. Candidate is Proposed By An Elk
2. Candidate's Application With Fee is Given to the Lodge Secretary
3. At the Next Regular Lodge Meeting, the Candidate's name is read by the Lodge Secretary (GLS Section 14.010)
4. The Exalted Ruler orders the application to be given to Investigation Committee.
5. The Investigation Committee Should Interview the Candidate and References (GLS Section 14.010)
6. Investigation Committee Returns Application to Lodge Secretary
7. At the next Regular Lodge Meeting, the Investigating Committee or Secretary presents its recommendation. The Exalted Ruler sets date for balloting. (GLS Section 14.010)
8. The Membership is notified of the balloting. Normally by way of the Lodge Bulletin (GLS Section 14.010)
9. The Applicant is balloted on by the Lodge Members attending the Lodge Meeting. It takes a 2/3 majority vote of those present to be elected into the Order (GLS Section 14.010)
10. If Elected, Candidate will be notified of the Dates for Indoctrination and Initiation
11. The Indoctrination Committee will conduct the Indoctrination Program prior to Initiation (GLS Section 14.010)
12. Date is set for Initiation
13. The Candidate will then be initiated into the Order of Elks (GLS Section 14.010)

YOU ARE NOW AN ELK!
### TYPICAL LODGE MEETING ARRANGEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Special Guests</td>
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<td>Tiler</td>
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<td>Esteemed Leading Knight</td>
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<td>Esteemed Lecturing Knight</td>
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<td>Exalted Ruler</td>
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<td>Esteemed Loyal Knight</td>
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<td>Inner Guard</td>
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<td>Tiler</td>
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**Trustees**

**Members**
THE ELEVEN O’CLOCK TOAST

At any Elk function, when the Hour of Eleven P.M. strikes, everyone ceases conversation and stands. The Exalted Ruler, or another Member, recites the beautiful words of The ELEVEN O’CLOCK TOAST in memory of our DEPARTED MEMBERS and for those unable to be with us at this hour. He concludes with the words, “to our absent members”.

You have heard the tolling of eleven strokes. This is to remind us that with Elks the Hour of Eleven has a tender significance. Wherever an Elk may roam, whatever his lot in life may be, when this hour falls upon the dial of night, the great heart of Elkdom swells and throbs. It is the golden hour of recollection, the homecoming of those who wander, the mystic roll call of those who will come no more. Living or dead, an Elk is never forgotten, never forsaken. Morning and noon may pass him by, the light of day sink heedlessly in the West, but ere the shadows of midnight shall fall, the chimes of memory will be pealing forth the friendly message…..

“TO OUR ABSENT MEMBERS”

The Elks' Pledge

I Pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands; one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all

Tribute to the Flag

"..As this emblem is first in our hearts as loyal Americans, so it is close to our Altar as loyal Elks. The gentle breezes with lingering caress kiss the folds of no flag which can compare with it in beauty. There is no such red in budding rose; in the falling leaf or sparkling wine; no such white in April blossom in crescent moon or mountain snow; no such blue in woman's eye, in ocean's depth or heaven's dome; and no such pageantry of clustering stars and streaming light in all the spectrum of the sea and sky.."
**RI State Elks Association – State Committees**

- Accident Prevention
- Adopt a Veteran
- Americanism
- Auditing
- Business Practices
- By-Laws
- Community Activities
- Convention
- Credentials
- Drug Awareness
- Elks Training
- Grand Exalted Ruler Visitation
- Golf
- Government Relations
- Hoop Shoot
- Housing (Conventions)
- Lodge Activities
- Lodge Membership and Development
- National Foundation
- National Home
- National Service
- Public Relations
- Risk Management
- Ritual
- Scholarships
- Soccer Program
- Special Needs
- State Bulletin
- Internet Services
- Lodge Activities
- Youth Activities
- Website Development

**Our Legacy to the Future**

Seventy-five years ago, at the Grand Lodge Convention in Miami, the delegates voted to establish an Elks National Foundation. They were compelled to action by the words of then-GER John F. Malley, who described the Foundation as “an Elk temple of philanthropy, which, in time, will be the greatest monument to a noble purpose that has ever been built by a fraternal organization.”

The idea of an Elks Charitable Trust was first introduced by Malley during a banquet at Meriden, Connecticut Lodge on February 21, 1927. His plan called for the creation of a fund, fueled completely by voluntary donations.

His dream became a reality the following year, at the 1928 convention. The Grand Lodge got the ball rolling with an initial $100,000 grant. A second $100,000 grant soon followed. In that first year, Elks, their families and friends raised a total of $52,500.

Since then, the ENF has relied on volunteers at the Lodge, district and state levels to help coordinate our fundraising strategy. These dedicated individuals reach every Elk family by hosting fundraising events, promoting the Foundation and personally inviting members to pledge their support. With more than 183,000 active donors, the Foundation has raised a total of more than $147 million since inception.

All donations go into a permanent endowment fund, where each gift earns interest for lifetimes. Only the income earned by this fund can be used to support charitable programs. (Capital gains and appreciation are considered principal, not income, and therefore cannot be spent.) Today, the value of this Endowment Fund is $320 million.

In February 1931, the Foundation Trustees felt that the time had come to begin using that income to foster and further the Elks’ philanthropic causes. They believed the fund should supplement the work being performed by the various Lodges and State Associations.

Today, the Elks National Foundation has distributed more than $217 million in support of Elks charitable activities nationwide. During 2003-04, the Elks National Foundation will distribute more than $14.8 million through college
scholarship programs, the Elks Drug Awareness Program, the Elks National "Hoop Shoot" Free Throw Program, the Elks Soccer Shoot, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission and the Elks National Home. The Foundation also strives to give back to each state more money for its charitable programs than that state donated to the Foundation.

A board of seven trustees, who are all past national presidents of the Order, administers the Elks National Foundation. The Foundation is located at the Elks national headquarters in the Elks Veterans Memorial in Chicago. The current director, Jim O’Kelley, oversees the administration of the Foundation’s day-to-day operations. He has a staff of 14.

Through continuous support, the Elks National Foundation hopes to expand its services to others through college scholarships, veterans service, drug educational and youth athletic programs, and charitable grants to state Elks associations.

The Elks Veterans Service Program

In June of 1917 The Elks National War Relief Commission was appointed to administer a $1 million dollar fund for war relief.

This fund provided the complete equipping of two base hospitals which were the first to reach France. Also, the B.P.O.E. established the first rehabilitation hospital in the United States.

The Order of Elks was the first fraternal organization whose help was sought by the government for food conservation at the request of the food commissioner, Herbert Hoover.

A distinctive service of the Order in war relief was a connection with vocational training of disabled veterans. The commission created funds for loans to veterans. Out of nearly 40,000 loans made, every dollar was repaid except where death or other unavoidable circumstances made it impossible.

World War II found the Elks involved in different pursuits. The Lodges worked in cooperation with the armed forces programs in recruiting. “G” boxes of smoking materials, candy, shaving equipment, etc. were filled and sent overseas. “Write ‘em a letter” campaigns and entertainment programs were also provided. One hundred thousand Elks wore the uniform of the armed forces; 1,800 never returned home. The Elks Memorial Building in Chicago is dedicated to these men in the hope that so long as the building stands there will be peace on earth.

After World War II, the Elks War Commission was replaced by The Elks National Service Veterans Commission to carry out postwar work. The main project in the Veterans program includes entertainment, recreational and occupational therapy. Services include coffee for the USOs, deer hides for therapy, donations of books, clothing, games, etc., excursions to ball games, fishing trips and donations of recreational equipment. In its increasing effort to serve those who have served, the Order of Elks tries to live up to its pledge: “So long as there is a disabled Veteran in our hospitals, The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget him.”

Many things are needed at the VA hospitals across the country. These include clothing, razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste and any type of games. If interested, please contact your Lodge Secretary about possible donations.
Several of our Grand Exalted Rulers have stated that in their travels, they found those associated with the National Veterans Service program to be the most dedicated of the dedicated. Furthermore, many Chiefs of Voluntary Service at VA Medical Centers have told us, "Whenever we want something, we can count on the Elks."

In each of the 172 VA Medical Centers there is an Elk committee at work. Literally, thousands of Elks and their families give generously of their time, energy and resources so that the lives of our ill and aging veterans will be enhanced. Hundreds of thousands of hours and like numbers of dollars are devoted to programs that are designed to keep us true to our pledge: "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them." And now we've broadened our program to include outpatients and veterans who are homeless.

The commission has established an online resource center at www.elks.org. The purpose of this online resource center is not only to inform the public and our own members of our good works, but also to help our Veterans Service chairmen and committee members live up to our pledge. We've tried to answer the questions most often asked and to spell out the responsibilities of chairmen on all levels. We've also included suggestions to strengthen your program.

Our goal is to make the Elks the most visible force in voluntary service to our veterans. Hopefully this resource center will be useful in that quest.

The Elks National Home

Where is it?
The Elks National Home is nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in southwest Virginia, on 200 acres of rolling farmland. Bedford is located on U.S.460, midway between Roanoke and Lynchburg. From Interstate 81 take exit 150A. Greyhound Bus Lines travels to the city. The nearest Airports are Roanoke and Lynchburg.

The Facility
The administration building comprises the lobby, dining room, library, recreation room, infirmary and offices. The resident rooms and apartments are in nine separate buildings, which are connected by enclosed, heated and air-conditioned porches and walkways. Buildings A, B, C, H and I are single-occupancy. Buildings D, E, F and G are single or double occupancy.

But is there anything to do? You'll enjoy:

- A library
- A well-equipped hobby shop and individual hobby rooms (if available).
- A TV room (but you may have your own TV)
- A Jacuzzi.

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission has become a collecting partner of the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, which collects and preserves the extraordinary wartime stories of ordinary people. Learn how you can participate by collecting interviews with veterans from your lodge and your community.
• An executive golf course.
• Shuffleboard Courts.
• An exercise room.
• A card room.
• Pool Tables.
• Fishing.
• Weekly shopping trips.
• Regular "Field trips" to points of interest.

There is a Full-Time Activities Director who plans all trips, coordinates Jazz Bands, regular dances, Birthday parties and parties for all occasions, and much, much more.

**Visiting the Home**
Family and friends of residents are welcome to visit as often as they wish. We welcome all visitors, whether you come just to eat a meal or wish to have a tour of our facility. We are more than happy to have Elk members stay with us for a few days to experience the beautiful atmosphere. Any Elk in good standing may visit the Home for up to five days in any one month for a charge of only $40.00 per day, plus tax. This includes your room and meals. It is recommended that anyone considering becoming a resident visit with us. Over night visits for couples (both must be Elk members) must be arranged in advance through the marketing office. Although both husband and wife must be Elk members in order to stay over night, everyone is welcome for a tour and meals. To schedule for a visit with us please call our toll free number during regular business hours, 1-800-552-4140 or e-mail us at ENHome@aol.com.

Please note: There is a dress code for meals, for both residents and visitors. Coat and tie are required for breakfast and dinner. The coat is not required from May to October. Lunch is casual.

If you are unable to visit the home in person, then do the next best thing… purchase the Elks National Home's video. This video has just been released in November 2000 and it provides clips on all the new renovations that have just been completed earlier in 2000. The cost is only $10.00 per video. You may send your check payable to: Elks National Home, 931 Ashland Ave., Bedford, VA 24523

**Christmas Time**
Christmas at the Elks National Home is a very special time of the year, not only for the residents who have made this their Home, but also for the devoted and dedicated staff and the approximately 100,000 visitors who will see the splendor of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks portrayed as a beaming, spirited rebirth of Charity and Brotherly Love.

The annual Christmas Lighting Ceremony is always a very special occasion and a major highlight of the year, not only for the residents and staff of the Home, but for the local community and many officials of the Order of Elks. The official lighting of the Elks National Home Christmas display and ceremony proudly takes place in the Home's spacious newly renovated dining hall. Executive Director, William Pickett, cordially invites the public to attend. A special guest speaker will throw the master switch to illuminate the lights. The Home's spectacular Christmas display will be illuminated each evening from 5:30 to 10:00 p.m., through December 31. Annually, more than 20,000 cars with over 100,000 visitors enjoy the splendor of illuminated Christmas scenes and over 50,000 lights. This annual event makes the Elks National Home the focal point of Bedford, the "Christmas Capital of Virginia".
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<th>Program</th>
<th>Target</th>
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<td>Most Valuable Student Scholarship Competition</td>
<td>HS Senior</td>
<td>Applications available September 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legacy Awards for Children of Elks</td>
<td>HS Senior, Elks child</td>
<td>Applications available September 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hoop Shoot</td>
<td>Ages 8-13</td>
<td>October - April</td>
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<td>Soccer Shoot</td>
<td>Ages 14 and under</td>
<td>Summer/Back to School</td>
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<td>Drug Awareness Program</td>
<td>Grades 4-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Veterans Volunteers</td>
<td>All-ages</td>
<td>Year-Round</td>
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<td>Americanism Essay Contest</td>
<td>Grades 5-8</td>
<td>Back-to-School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antlers</td>
<td>Ages 12 - 20</td>
<td>Year-Round</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elks &amp; Scouting</td>
<td>All-Ages</td>
<td>Year-Round</td>
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</table>
In the summer of 1963, a group of men held a meeting at the Showboat restaurant on Tiogue Avenue in Coventry, and received the Charter for the Coventry-West Greenwich Elks. This nucleus of men elected Albert Izzi as the first Exalted Ruler. Many fundraising activities were held in order to raise the down payment for our future Lodge.

Working with a tight budget, the Elks started looking for a permanent home. The search was narrowed down to two possibilities: acquiring the Mishnock Inn or the Nooseneck Inn. The decision was made to purchase the Mishnock Inn in 1963 from Albert and William Izzi for the Elks Lodge. A small band of Elks marched from Carlson's Mapleroot Inn to the site of the present Lodge, and conducted a flag raising ceremony with a borrowed flag. The wooded area behind the Lodge was cleared by the Izzi brothers, and Jack Lovegren built a barbecue. Although the Lodge was small, with a dance floor the size of a postage stamp, many good times were shared and the turnout for all parties was large.

In 1974, a new addition was added to the old building and completed in September of that year. The District Deputy Visitation was held in the new addition. One week later, an electrical fire in the ceiling burned down the entire building. This fire occurred during the term of Exalted Ruler Ted Hall. All the Elks pitched in to salvage what could be little that could be saved. Lodge Secretary Bert Cole managed to salvage some records.

The next Lodge meeting was held at the Coventry Community Center to discuss options. The body decided to rent the Mishnock Roller Rink from the Albro family to be used as a temporary home. Exalted Ruler Cloyde Desgranges (1975) had the responsibility to make the roller rink usable. The building was wrapped in plastic to keep out the cold by Exalted Ruler Cloyde Desgranges, PER Fred Cavanaugh and PER Robert Aldrich. Many successful parties were held at this temporary facility while the new Lodge was being built.

Brother Art Debuc was the “Clerk of the Works” and was at the construction site constantly as Perotti Construction built the new facility. Exalted Ruler Howie Wheeler moved into the new building with the help of many Elks in 1976. In February 1977, another fire occurred in the rear storage room and caused $60,000 worth of damage. Exalted Ruler Wheeler designated his Leading Knight Fred Cavanaugh as the Rebuilding Chairman. Along with the help of Joe Perotti, the building was repaired in just six weeks. The new kitchen and rear offices were constructed of cinder blocks rather than wood. No more fires! Exalted Ruler Fred Cavanaugh was installed in the newly rebuilt Lodge just one week after it was completed.

Over the next 30 years, the Membership struggled with moving into the upper level of our Lodge. After a great deal of work by many dedicated Elks, the Lodge relocated into the upper level of the building in 2007 under Exalted Ruler Jerry Halleck. The Elks also became landlords in 2007 when the lower level of the Lodge was leased to Perspectives, a private agency, whose purpose is to help people with disabilities participate in and contribute to community life.

**Charter Information:**
The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Chartered Coventry-West Greenwich Lodge #2285 on July 10, 1963. The Lodge has served the communities of Coventry and West Greenwich continuously since that date.

**Lodge Meeting Nights:**
The Lodge meets in regular session the 2nd and 4th Wednesday nights at 7:00pm. (Exceptions: In July and August, Lodge meets on the 4th Wednesday only; and in December the Lodge meets the 2nd Wednesday only).
House Committee Rules

House Committee rules are required for the operation of the Members Lounge and are posted in the Lounge. Please familiarize yourself with these rules, and conduct yourself accordingly in the Lounge.

Remember that the Members Lounge is not a bar room. You are responsible for your behavior and that of your guests. Any guests (other than your spouse) that you bring into the Members Lounge must be signed into the guest book. Your guests must leave when you do.

The steward on duty (bartender) is responsible for the operation of the Members Lounge and to assure that House Committee Rules are followed. Please remember that these rules are in place to assure that the Members Lounge remains a safe and happy place, where members and their guests may relax and have fun.

Read the bulletin boards in the Lounge for the latest information regarding upcoming events and news.

MEMBERS LOUNGE HOURS OF OPERATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>4:00 PM – 10:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>4:00 PM – 10:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>4:00 PM – 10:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>4:00 PM – 10:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>4:00 PM – 11:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>3:00 PM – 11:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday*</td>
<td>3:00 PM – 9:00 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(open at 1:00 PM during football season)

Friday Night is GRILL NIGHT at the Lodge! Stop in for dinner.
PAST EXALTED RULERS
COVENTRY-WEST GREENWICH LODGE #2285

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albert N. Izzi</td>
<td>1963-1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ernest Shepard</td>
<td>1964-1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur W. Nadeau</td>
<td>1965-1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold Waltonen PDD</td>
<td>1966-1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George A. Williams Sr.</td>
<td>1967-1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Messier</td>
<td>1968-1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louis Ferland</td>
<td>1969-1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William H. Gaffney</td>
<td>1971-1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herman L. Ware</td>
<td>1972-1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold Hosbond</td>
<td>1973-1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerson L. Hall, Jr</td>
<td>1974-1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloyde DesGranges</td>
<td>1975-1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Howard Wheeler</td>
<td>1976-1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick J. Cavanaugh PDD</td>
<td>1977-1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Aldrich Jr.</td>
<td>1978-1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Downey</td>
<td>1979-1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Greene</td>
<td>1980-1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard E. Provencher PDD</td>
<td>1981-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph H. A. St. Jean PDD</td>
<td>1982-1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Armstrong</td>
<td>1983-1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Beaudreau</td>
<td>1984-1985</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Moran</td>
<td>1985-1986</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Forte PDD</td>
<td>1986-1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leo Blanchette PDD</td>
<td>1987-1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Leahy</td>
<td>1988-1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Charbonneau</td>
<td>1989-1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Robinson</td>
<td>1990-1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert D. Webber</td>
<td>1991-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Leahy</td>
<td>1992-1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Conneally</td>
<td>1993-1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Flynn</td>
<td>1994-1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Forte PDD</td>
<td>1995-1996</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Moan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry Powers</td>
<td>1997-1998</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gerald Halleck PDD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Charbonneau</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>2001-2002</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Proulx</td>
<td>2002-2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roland Denomme</td>
<td>2003-2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annette McKay</td>
<td>2004-2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Proulx</td>
<td>2005-2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Malouin</td>
<td>2008-2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Buildings weather with the passage of time, and beloved Members pass into the light, which is beyond the valley of the shadow of death. But the passage of the years in Coventry-West Greenwich Lodge #2285 only strengthens our steadfast commitment to the eternal principles of charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity.
The following are some of the awards that have been won by our Lodge through the hard work of its members:

State Champion - RI State Elks Association PER Ritual Contest 1986-1987
Grand Exalted Ruler’s Membership Commendation 1995-1996
5th Place - Elks National Foundation 1998-1999
1st Place - RI State Elks Association – Drug Awareness Program 1999-2000
4th Place - Elks National Foundation 1999-2000
2nd Place - Elks National Veterans Service Committee 2000-2001
6th Place - Elks National Foundation 2000-2001
2nd Place – RI State Elks Association – Public Relations 2001-2002
3rd Place - Elks National Veterans Service Committee 2001-2002
6th Place - Elks National Foundation 2001-2002
1st Place - Elks National Veterans Service Committee 2002-2003
2nd Place - Elks National Veterans Service Committee 2002-2003
6th Place - Elks National Foundation 2002-2003
3rd Place – RI State Elks Association – Public Relations 2002-2003
Overall Winner – Outstanding Youth Program 2003-2004
1st Place - Elks National Veterans Service Committee 2003-2004
2nd Place – RI State Elks Association – Public Relations 2003-2004
2nd Place – RI State Elks Association – Public Relations 2004-2005
2nd Place – RI State Elks Association – Public Relations 2004-2005
6th Place - Elks National Foundation 2005-2006
2nd Place – RI State Elks Association – Public Relations 2005-2006
Membership Excellence Award (Honorable Mention) 2006-2007

Our Lodge has produced four State Presidents

• Ernest Faiola (1986-1987)
• John Lamantia (1998-1999)

Our Lodge has produced four State Elks of the Year

• Ernest Faiola (1981-1982)
• John Giblin (1986-1987)
• Jack Philips (2003-2004)
• Joseph H. A. St. Jean (2005-2006)

Our Lodge has produced nine District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers

• Harold Waltonen
• Fred Cavanaugh
• Richard Provencher
• Joseph H. A. St. Jean
• Leo Blanchette
• John Lamantia
• John Kirkconnell
• John Forte
• Jerry Halleck

Our Lodge is honored to have produced a Grand Lodge Officer


Our Lodge has also produced numerous Grand Lodge Committeemen and State Officers.
# LODGE CALENDAR 2009-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Lodge Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Lodge Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Lodge Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15-17</td>
<td>State Convention</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Lodge Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Lodge Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Lodge Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>National Convention</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Lodge Meeting</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>26</td>
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<td>September</td>
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<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Lodge Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Lodge Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Lodge Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Lodge Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Lodge Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Lodge Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td></td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>February</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Lodge Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Lodge Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Lodge Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Lodge Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Emblem Club

Independent but in harmony, the Emblem Club organization is a helpmate and complement to the work of the Coventry-West Greenwich Lodge of Elks.

The Supreme Emblem Club of the U.S.A.

A small group of Elks' ladies began meeting together in 1917 to wrap bandages for American troops during the First World War. They enjoyed the sociability, and at the same time felt the joy of accomplishment. The combination of assisting others and enjoying good fellowship appealed to other women, and a community group came together. Fifteen members of a group of ladies in Providence, Rhode Island, related to members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, who were active under the name of Emblem Club, developed the idea of a national organization of such groups. The organization was chartered in the State of Rhode Island as the Supreme Emblem Club of the United States of America by Esther A. Sweeney, Mary T. Duffy, Alice Farrell, Mary L. Clark, and Charlotte O'Conner of the "original fifteen", on April 27, 1926, and filed in the office of the Secretary of State of Rhode Island on May 3, 1926. Nine Emblem Clubs were organized during the first year in the New England States in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut. This number has steadily increased and now, in more than seventy years of formal existence, Emblem Clubs are located in every section of this country, including Alaska and Hawaii. With this organization continuously progressing, the future of Emblem is even more promising. The Emblem Club attracts individuals of many diverse talents, abilities, and ages, all of whom combine to make Emblem a very special organization. In Emblem there is an important place for each member.

Insignia

The insignia of the organization, an Elk's head surrounded by a wreath, is used on pins, stationery, publications and banners. This insignia shows that our members are related to or sponsored by members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, and cooperates in their endeavors, when invited to do so.

Membership

An individual must be a citizen of the United States of America and at least eighteen years old. A prospective member must be sponsored by an Emblem Club member and by a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America. An Emblem Club may be recognized as an auxiliary by an Elks Lodge. However, the Lodge has no jurisdiction in the formation, rules, or regulations of the Emblem Club. The Emblem Club is an independent organization. The goodwill and assistance of the members of the Lodge of Elks is most welcome and helpful and cooperation between the Elks and the Emblem Club is most desirable in the interest of progress and harmony. An Emblem member attending a meeting or social event within the Elks Lodge must be governed by and obey the House Rules of the Elks Lodge.
The basis of this Indoctrination Booklet was prepared by Bill Hart, PSP, with the authority of the Austin Elks Lodge #201 Trustees and is the sole property of the Austin Elks Lodge #201, Austin, Travis County, Texas.

The author expresses his thanks for being able to reprint certain parts from the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the USA, and the Plano Richardson Elks Lodge #2485.

Permission to use all or any part of this Indoctrination Booklet is hereby granted to any Elks Lodge that wishes to do so.


This book was further modified and updated for use by the Coventry-West Greenwich Elks #2285, Rhode Island, by Joseph A. St. Jean and Melissa Casey Hagenburg in 2008.