



NEWSLETTER

Charity | Justice | Brotherly Love | Fidelity

December 2023 | VOLUME 272

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MISSION STATEMENT

"To inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that Elks Care." and Elks Share."

ER's Message

Seasons Greetings Members,

We find ourselves in full swing of the holiday season so please do not forget to sign up for the holiday party to be held at the lodge on Sunday the 17th .

Also, we have the one and only Tyler Lemieux returning on Saturday performing classic rock and country tunes on December 16th in the lounge. Along with some music we will be serving up NYC style pastrami sandwiches on rye bread.

I hope everyone finds the time to enjoy holidays with family and friends.

Fraternally yours,

Tim Davis

Exalted Ruler

518 229 3654

Timfixer@gmail.com

LODGE OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler	Tim Davis
Leading Knight	Al Campisano
Loyal Knight	Patrick Skelley
Lecturing Knight	Gerald Wendel
Esquire	Barry Betz Jr.
Chaplain	Cheri Pierce Rigsbee
Inner Guard	Brian Hedge
Tiler	Joel Rigsbee
Secretary	Tom Nardacci, PDDGER
Treasurer	John Christiansen, PER
House Chair	Paul Muzio
Newsletter Editor	Patrick Skelley
Trustees	
5-Year Trustee	Chuck Adams, PER
4-Year Trustee	Ronald Barner, PER
3-Year Trustee	Dana Murphy
2-Year Trustee	Jim Walsh
1-Year Trustee	Greg Collins, PER

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Committee	Chair
Accident Prevention	Chris Linck
Activities Committee	Open
Adopt-A-Highway	Brian Kirch, PER
Adopt-A-Family	Angie Vroman
Adopt-a-Neighborhood	Jason Terrence
Americanism	Mary Jean Willis, PER
Antlers Program	Elaine Rudzinski
Auditing	Mike Bobersky / Andy Koenig
Bar Stewards	Tim Grugan / Tom Nardacci, PDDGER
Bell Jar	Nick Vecchione, PER
Bingo Chair	Mark Mann
Charitable Reporting	Linda Rowse, DDGER
Christmas Party	Nancy Hunt
Cigar Tasting	Bryan Van Deusen
Coats for Kids	Shelley Viola
Community Activities	Bob Myron, PER
Community Awards	Chris Linck
Dart League	Charles Megyesi
Drug Awareness	Barry Betz Jr.
Elks National Foundation	Lawrence E. Rowse, PDDGER
Elk Training	Dave Hilker, PER
Entertainment	Open
Flag Day	Marylou Hedge
Fraternal	Cheri Pierce Rigsbee
Fundraising	Open
Government Relations	Tom Grant / Phil Danaher
Grants	Greg Collins
Grounds	James Walsh
Hoop Shoot	Scott Galarneau
Ladies Night	Patti Embree
House Chair	Marylou Hedge
Indoctrination	Linda Rowse, DDD
Internet / Electronic	Dominic Indelicato
Justice	Joseph Slater
Kids Coaching Program	Cheryl Higgins
Lapsation	Lawrence E. Rowse, PDDGER
Liquor Steward	Jeff Grugan
Lodge Historian	Ronald Barner, PER
Lottery	Chris Adams
Major Projects	Jerry Wendel
Marketing	Open
Meat Raffle	Steve Frese
Membership	Open
Memorial Sunday	Jack Coyne
National Veterans	Cheri Pierce Rigsbee
Newsletter Editor	Patrick Skelley
Pavilion Restoration	Paul Muzio
PER Association	Brian Kirch, PER
Public Relations	Greg Collins
Recreation	Ronald Barner, PER
Ritual	Tom Nardacci, PDDGER
Scholarship	Lori Bishop
Sickness and Distress	James Walsh
Soccer Shoot	Patrick Skelley
Steak and Lobster Bake	Steve Frese
Toys for Tots	Nancy Hunt
Trunk or Treat	Rose Herbst
Turkey Bowl	Joseph Slater / Steve Slater
Turkey Shoot	Lawrence E. Rowse, PDDGER
WELKcome	Chris Trumbull
Youth Activities	Cathy Scoons

Support Your Lodge!

- Like / Share on Facebook
- Invite a Friend
- Volunteer Your Time
- Share Your Ideas
- Attend Lodge Fundraisers
- Attend Lodge Meetings
- Say No To Lodge Drama

LODGE INFORMATION

Website:	www.2073elks.org		
Telephone:	(518) 477-9947		
ER Tim:	Timfixer@gmail.com		
Lodge E-mail:	2073elks@gmail.com		
Newsletter:	renss.elksnewsletter@gmail.com		
Events:	housechairmanelks2073@gmail.com		
Mailing Address:	683 Columbia Turnpike East Greenbush, NY 12061		
Lodge Hours:	Sun through Wed 2 PM – 8 PM; Thurs 2 —10 PM; Fri and Sat 2 PM —12 AM		
Lodge Meetings:	2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 PM		
Trustee Meetings:	2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM		
House Committee Meetings:	1 st Monday of each month at 6:30 PM		
Facebook:	@2073elks	Linked In:	2073elks
Twitter:	@2073elks	Tik Tok:	2073elks
Snap Chat:	2073elks	Pinterest:	@2073elks

SECRETARY'S CORNER

Lodge dues have increased this year to \$78.00 due to increased Grand Lodge and State assessments.

- **Dues for fiscal year 2023 – 2024** went out in the mail beginning in February, so you should have received notice. If you did not, please make sure we have a current mailing address.
 - **Pay Your Dues Now!** If you are delinquent, please pay your dues so you don't become inactive for payment.
 - Please remember that only Members current on their dues may enter the building and you may not sign in delinquent members as guests.
- There are now two ways to pay your dues:
- **Mail in a check:** Rensselaer Elks Lodge #2073, Attn: Lodge Secretary, 683 Columbia Turnpike East Greenbush, NY 12061. Be sure to include your membership number in the "Memo" portion.
 - **Stop In:** Come visit me at the Lodge or see the bartender with cash / check.



We have a critical need for help! Please contact the House Committee Chair or ER to find out ways you may get involved. The Lodge only functions because of the hard work of our Members. It isn't fair to tax the same people for all tasks all year long. They need a break!

- Cook chicken wings or hot dogs
- Chaperone a party
- Clean up after an event
- Fill up care packs for Vets
- Volunteer for a youth activity
- Be a server

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

The Lodge hosts breakfast every Sunday morning from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM and members, their guests and the general public are welcome to attend. Our full service menu offers the most reasonable prices in town and a wide variety of food options with generous portions certain to please each guest. Help us to build our breakfast crowd by inviting a friend to join you. Groups are welcome, but please call ahead for reservations.



NOVEMBER QUARTER POOL

01	2743	17	2723
02	2274	18	3625
03	3431	19	1443
04	3361	20	2432
05	3056	21	2932
06	3522	22	2753
07	3506	23	Closed
08	3140	24	3272
09	2866	25	3026
10	2248	26	3353
11	3279	27	2693
12	3316	28	3629
13	2995	29	2969
14	0557	30	3167
15	3537		
16	3334		
No Winners			

BINGO REPORT – NOVEMBER

- **Events:** 4
- **Players:** 402
- **Gross Receipts:** \$14,197
- **Prizes:** \$8449
- **Net:** \$5752



Bingo is held every Thursday night starting at 7:00 PM. Open to players age 18+. Doors open at 5:00 PM. \$1,300 in prizes. Food specials and the best Bingo Crew on the planet!

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

All is well!

Bless our Elks Lodge Lord, and change hatred into love, animosity into friendship, vengeance into forgiveness, gossip into appreciation, and competition into cooperation. Amen.

Cheri Pierce Rigsbee, Chaplain

Please contact the Lodge for any sickness and distress notices at (518) 477-9947. If you know of someone who has lost a friend or family member, or someone who could use a cheery word or assistance from fellow Elks, please let us know. Elks Care!



December 10th: Children's Christmas Party


December 16th: Tyler Lemieux Band

December 17th: Member Christmas Party

December 25th: Merry Christmas!

Rensselaer Elks Presents

TYLER LEMIEUX



DATE: SATURDAY DECEMBER 16TH
TIME: 7 TO 9 PM
PLACE: RENSSELAER ELKS LOUNGE

THIS EVENT IS FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR INVITED GUESTS

Rensselaer Elks Lodge #2073
Member Christmas Party
December 17, 2023 2-6 pm (Hall)

Please join us for:

Dinner (Buffet)
Turkey & Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Stuffing & Cranberry
Green & Yellow Beans
Chicken Parm
Roll & butter
Fruit & Desserts
(Food served at 2:30)

Music
by DJ Floyd Hunt

Basket Raffles
For the Ronald McDonald House
Members can donate baskets (winners chosen at 4:30)

Dancing



Please sign up in the lounge by December 10, 2023
Made with PosterMyWall.com

Tip of the Antlers— November

- ✓ Kate Schoyer handcrafted 375 hand-stenciled T-shirts and 25 hats and donated them to the Lodge's Veterans Committee. Kate's creations were distributed among the Albany Stratton VA clothing room, Capital District Patriot Flight Veterans & Friends Breakfast attendees, as well as Melvin Roads American Legion's Veterans Day Ceremony attendees. Thanks for sharing with our Vets, Kate!
- ✓ Tim (Moose) Opitz obtained 20 sets of larger size hoodies and sweats donated by clothing companies he contacted. Additionally, Linda Weber assisted him with individual packaging of additional clothing items they donated -- shirts, 2 pair briefs, and 2 pair socks. Moose realized a need for larger men's sizes while volunteering during our Veterans Stand Down Day. The 20 plus size winter care packages were donated to the Albany Stratton VA clothing room. Thanks for helping our Veterans, Moose and Linda!
- ✓ Marion Kelleher (Bingo patron and Lodge friend) obtained a donation from ShopRite consisting of U.S. Flags and themed reusable market bags for the fall and Breast Cancer Awareness. Four cases of pink ribbon bags were donated to ToLife! a non-profit organization that helps breast cancer thrivers and survivors. Fall bags were used for our Food Drive for the Albany Stratton VA, and the U.S. Flags will be distributed at future Veteran events. Thanks for thinking of us Marion!
- ✓ Cheryl Higgins and Jen Davis graciously worked with their High School Work Program students to itemize Food Drive donations, clean donated golf equipment, make Veterans Day cards, AND assemble Mayflower Munch Snack Packs for Veterans. So many extra tasks are completed by the Work Program students, and all is very much appreciated!
- ✓ Kristen Coyne (wife of Mark Coyne) AND Shawn Yearsley (son-in-law of Ray Verrelli, Jr.) graciously provided Veterans Day Cards, handmade by their students, for distribution at the weekly Thursday morning Veterans & Friends Breakfast at Melvin Roads American Legion, as well as the Veterans at Gerald O'Neil Post American Legion. Gerald O'Neil Vets were also the recipients of the Mayflower Munch Snack Packs during their monthly meeting.
- ✓ Thanks to Elizabeth Bogdanowicz for serving as our Lodge liaison to Holy Spirit School and for all her hard work and coordination efforts for our partnership during the Adopt-a-Veteran Drive.
- ✓ Barry Betz, Jr., Kailee Quinlivan, Mary Ann Hilker, and Joel Rigsbee all assisted with checking and packing donated food, toiletries, and clothing collected during our Adopt-a-Veteran Drive which was delivered to the Albany Stratton VA Food Pantry and clothing room.
- ✓ Thanks to all members, family, and friends who donated used golf equipment for Bunkers in Baghdad; our Golf Drive is ending soon.
- ✓ Thanks to all members, Antlers, family, and friends who donated food, toiletries, clothing, and sneakers to our Adopt-a-Veteran Drive.
- ✓ Thanks to Bryan Kirkland for his generous donation to our Adopt-a-Veteran Drive, made in memory of Patricia Crowley (Kayla Grugan's Grandmother) who passed last month.
- ✓ Thanks to Len Smith for constructing boxes for our Adopt-a-Veteran Drive and for our Bunkers in Baghdad Golf Drive.
- ✓ Thanks to Mark Mann for purchasing 10 Wreaths on behalf of the Bingo Committee for the Annual Wreaths Across America program. The Wreaths will be placed on Veterans' graves at the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery.
- ✓ Thanks to Kailee Quinlivan and her Mom, Shannon Ciafardo, for obtaining 64 free haircut cards from Great Clips for Veterans! The free cut cards were distributed to our Vets, as well as Vets at the Gerald O'Neil Post and the Melvin Roads Post. Thanks for helping our Vets, ladies!

Final stretch of Lodge year starts in January

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

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

You and your Lodge Officers should be reviewing how and where you stand with your Local Lodge goals for the year. Should you see you are falling short, make January, February, and March your last big push to meet those goals. Your Lodge has all the assets

needed to meet those goals with the right plans. Use your Past Exalted Rulers Association, Board of Directors, and Lodge committees to analyze what is needed to declare victory.

This is also a great time to review your hard-working Members and decide who deserves an award for the great work done for your Lodge. Some of the awards you can present to a Member and Officer who has done so much to promote the Order are Elk of the Year, Officer of the Year, and Citizen of the Year. There is no better way to say thank you for the hard work and dedication they have demonstrated. You may involve other Members to promote the good work that your Lodge does in your community.

Finally, the Auditing and Accounting Committee should review Lodge books and report at the last meeting of the month. Remember "Elks Care — Elks Share" and "We Are THE Elks."

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

(Grand Lodge Newsletter Volume 59, No. 6)

House Committee Report

FROM THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Hours

The Lodge hours are as follows:

Mon, Tue, Wed from 2:00pm–8:00pm

Monday Lodge Meeting night (2nd Monday of the month) and Friday and Saturday nights, the hours will be 2:00pm–10:00pm

Thursday BINGO nights 2:00pm-10:00pm

Sunday 12:00pm – 8:00pm during NFL Sundays

Friday Dinners

Friday dinners are always welcome, asking for Volunteers, anyone looking to host, contact Myself or Tim Davis for assistance/planning. 20 Week Club Auction/Dinner was a complete success, many thanks to everyone who worked various parts making this happen.

Bookings

We had 12 event bookings in November. Many thanks to ALL our House Committee members and others for all you do for our lodge.

OCTOBER:

Revenue \$ 4,712.93

Expenses \$ 1,256.51

Net Profit \$ 3456.42

RESERVE your HOLIDAY event now before it's too late.

House Committee

December is here, Holiday Season is in full swing. The House Committee is ready to handle bookings for the coming months. Booking dates are available, now is the time to reserve the Pavilion or Hall for your Holiday or future upcoming event. The House Committee stands ready to assist all our members with any type of event.

Volunteers are ALWAYS needed, step up and say I'd like to help or at least learn!

Hope to hear or see you soon.

LODGE NEWS

Want to include something in the Newsletter? Please submit by the **20th of the month**. Please sign up to receive your newsletter by e-mail. Please e-mail submissions to renss.elksnewsletter@gmail.com or place in mailbox by the bar.

E-mail Address Capture

Please help us to build better communication by providing your e-mail address. Whether you have given it to us before, please send a new message with your current e-mail so that we can update our system to renss.elksnewsletter@gmail.com

20 WEEK CLUB—MAJOR PROJECTS FUNDRAISER

The 20 Week Club Major Projects Fundraiser Auction/ Dinner was very successful. Over 90 people attended to bid on over 100 items up for Auction. The variety of baskets and the way they were put together was phenomenal, many folks stepped up to donate baskets. Thank You!

The final cash prizes were drawn, and the winners were:

\$500 –Watne Pratt, \$250 – Mike Gaetano, \$100 – Bob Christ, Spiro, \$50 – John Nestler, John Cleary, Michaels Auto Plaza, Wayne Pratt

\$25– Jerry Wendel, Art Foley, Jerry Wendel, Kate Nardac-ci, Helen Probst, The Fund, John Nestler, Sheila Kern

Congratulations to all the final cash prize winners, as well as all basket / item winners.

A very special thank you to all who donated baskets, time, cash, auction items and ideas. Without your generosity, none of this would have been possible. What a great showing—absolutely amazing - beautiful!

A special thank you to Mary Ann Hilker and Mary Muzio for their extraordinary efforts in putting the baskets together. They spent countless hours working to make it turn out as great as it did. Thank you to Dave Hilker and Linda Rowse, for their long hours in procuring the many vendor donations.

Thanks to ER Tim Davis for ensuring that we had the up-stairs available for preparing baskets and other items for the auction, and for supporting me throughout the Major Project effort this year.

Also, thanks to Cheri Pierce-Rigsbee, for providing me with guidance materials at the onset of our 20 Week Club efforts. Cheri also created beautiful flyers for both the quilt raffle and the Auction night notice. She also drafted many of the emails for me and then enlisted Pat Skelley to blast them out via email.

A special thank you to Paul Muzio for providing me with the details of how this function should be planned and keeping me sane, if not sober. Thanks too to Paul for being emcee the night of the auction. Paul made the

night very entertaining as well as rewarding.

Thanks to Al Campisano who gave me advice and moral support throughout the 20 Week Club activities.

Also, a shout out to Doug Hadley, although 88 years young, he sold over 130, 20 week draw tickets for the Lodge. Thank you, Doug. Another thanks to all the folks who sold and bought 20 week tickets this year. We managed to sell all 500 tickets, a rarely accomplished feat.

The days leading to the auction, had many folks step up and volunteer: Valerie Grugan, Linda Weber, Linda Rowse, Larry Rowse, John Christiansen, Patrick Skelley, Dirck Van Deusen, Mary Muzio, Moose Opitz, Cheri Pierce-Rigsbee, Joel Rigsbee, Susan Herrmann, Janet Budd, Kim Seebaum, Al Campisano, and ER Tim Davis

The day of the auction also saw many helpers including:

The kitchen volunteers:

Cooks: Bob Myron, Dirck Van Duesen, Brian Van Duesen, Paul Muzio

Food Servers: Bev Rauch, Kim Seebaum, Sharon Wheeler, Jenn Kilinski, Sadie Rauch

Setup/Floor Workers: Carol Adams, Mary Muzio, Susan Hermann, Moose, Linda Weber, Janet Budd, Val Grugan, Patrick Skelley, Al Campisano, Linda Rowse, Maryann Hilker, Tara Niesen

The Bartenders: Angie Vroman, Tim Grugan, Becky Geisel

If anyone has been omitted, I truly apologize.

Thank you all!

The REAL winners here are the New York State Elks Association Major Projects and Center for Disability Services.

Thank you everyone for your generosity and support.

Jerry Wendel, Major Projects Chairman

Turkey Bowl 2023

The 32nd Rocky Prinzo Elks Turkey Bowl took place on Thanksgiving morning, and was broadcast worldwide on the Ocho. There was a lot of hype preceding this annual event between Steve Slater's perennial loser Fighting Rocky's team and Joe Slater's Prinzo's Powerhouse, which has won 12 of the last 13 Turkey Bowls.

Turkey Bowl commissioner Tim Davis held a press conference on Elks Radio Row in the days leading up to the event, with journalist Patrick Skelley asking the tough questions. Why was Greg Collins replaced as commissioner? Will an instant replay system help head referee Rob Leddick get the calls right? How many hot dogs will be consumed by the Leddick family post-game?

Las Vegas had the opening line of Fighting Rocky's 9 1/2+ and many were laying down large sums of money taking the points. The Greg Collins Experience performed a stirring rendition of the Star Spangled Banner which left the capacity crowd of 8 people in tears. After the flyover of F-15s, kickoff took place at 9am on the frozen tundra of Genet Elementary. Prinzo's Powerhouse quickly opened the scoring with a 15 yard TD pass from Joe Slater to Mike Bobersky. A Joe Slater field goal would then make it 10-0. The Fighting Rocky's would cut the lead to 10-6 on a TD pass from Garrett McDonald to Brett Heritage. However, a huge momentum swing occurred right before halftime with Joe Slater hitting Greg Jette on a 40 yard TD bomb. With time winding down in the half the Fighting Rocky's tried a hail mary, but it turned into a "fail" mary when the pass was picked off by Joe Slater and returned to the house for a TD. Prinzo's Powerhouse led 24-6 at halftime.

Tim Davis provided the halftime entertainment, performing a karaoke medley of 80s songs. Rolling Stone magazine praised his performance, calling Davis "Peter Wolf, David Byrne, and Huey Lewis" all rolled into one super-entertainer. Once play resumed, Prinzo's Powerhouse cruised to a 38-18 victory with Joe Slater hitting Greg Jette and Nate Novak with 2nd half touchdowns. Garrett McDonald threw another touchdown to Chris Legare, and Steve Slater threw a touchdown to Garrett McDonald to account for the Fighting Rocky's second half scores. Steve Slater led all Fighting Rocky's players with 8 receptions and 112 yards receiving. Following the game the members of the Elks Turkey Bowl league engaged in their usual revelry at the club with Chrissy and Nick supplying the food.

For the first time in the Turkey Bowl's legendary history the club sold Turkey Bowl squares with half of the money going toward a Rocky Prinzo athletic scholarship to be awarded to a local high school senior who plans to continue their athletic career in college. Congratulations to the winners of the squares. Special thanks to Chrissy and Nick, as well as the referees Rob Leddick, Jimmy Walsh, Dan Nickels, and Turkey Bowl Commissioner Tim Davis. The Following awards were handed out after the game:

Lifetime achievement award for excellence in Sports journalism: Patrick Skelley

Jimmy Walsh Sportsmanship Award: Connor Leddick

The John Christianson Handsomest Player Award: Mike Bobersky

The Larry Rowse Golden Hands Award: Brett Heritage

Nick Vechhione Sack Dance Award: Bob Myron

Milk Carton Award: Pat Grace

No-Show Award: Jay Coyle

Steve Slater MVP of the Losing Team Award: Steve Slater

Rocky Prinzo Turkey Bowl MVP: Joe Slater



Lodge Updates

Adopt-a-Veteran Drive for Albany Stratton VA

From Cheri Pierce Rigsbee, Chair Veterans Services

On November 13, a group of volunteers delivered over 500 items of food, toiletries, clothing, and sneakers to the Albany Stratton VA Medical Hospital's Food Pantry and clothing room. Thank you to Bryan Kirkland, Linda Weber, Tim (Moose) Opitz, and Ron Marshall for transporting numerous boxes to the VA!

This Adopt-a-Veteran Drive was held in conjunction with Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.

Special thanks to the Gerald O'Neil Post #1683 members, family, and friends who partnered with us yet again! I'm grateful to Ron Marshall (Past Post Commander and Veteran), for leading his Post in purchasing food, toiletries, and clothing for the Drive! It's even more special to see Veterans helping Veterans! I encourage Veterans, sons, and women to visit their Post, if interested in Membership. Their Post #1683 is located at 836 Broadway in Rensselaer. (I plan to join their Auxiliary!)

I'm also grateful for the coordination efforts of our Elks member and liaison to Holy Spirit School, Elizabeth Bogdanowicz! This is the second year that Holy Spirit students partnered with us on providing necessities to the Albany Stratton VA. The students presented the Elks Lodge with their donations during their Veterans Day Prayer Ceremony. Exalted Ruler Tim Davis and Chief Master Sergeant Mark Mann participated in the Ceremony and received the school's generous donations.

Lastly, our Adopt-a-Veteran Drive's success was also made possible by Rensselaer Elks Lodge members, families, and friends, as well as our Rensselaer Antlers Lodge #2073, who all donated food, toiletries, clothing, and sneakers.

The VA food pantry and clothing room is visited by approximately 6,000 Veterans a year and issues approximately 32,000 items. Your generosity surely makes a difference!

Our Representative Erwin (Dom) Dominguez, who is the Chief of the Center for Development & Civic Engagement, summed it up by saying "BRAVO ZULU for always keeping our Veterans in your hearts!"

Thank you all so very much!



Seeking Volunteers to Help our Veterans

From Cheri Pierce Rigsbee, Chair Veterans Services

Once again, the Veterans Committee will hold a Holiday Card Writing Campaign (date to be determined). Please let me know if you would like to help us write Holiday Cards to our numerous, local Veterans. Cards will be supplied, or you may bring your own. Also, we're always grateful to receive homemade cards from preschoolers and students, if you happen to work with youth, or lead Cub/Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts Troops.

Additionally, our Lodge will once again participate in the serving of ice cream and popcorn to Veterans residing in the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center. Please let me know if you'd like to volunteer. We only need 4 or 5 volunteers per visit, which begins January 7, but I will keep a running list of volunteers. Our Lodge will remain on the monthly rotation schedule. In the future, the VA may also need volunteers for its Breakfast Program.

Thanks for your consideration!

Email: Cheri2073@yahoo.com

(518) 598-3067

Lodge Updates

East Greenbush Hometown Heroes Banner Project

From Cheri Pierce Rigsbee, Chair Veterans Services

Would you like to honor and memorialize respect of an East Greenbush Veteran this Holiday Season?

The Hometown Heroes Banner Project began this year in June and continually accepts applications. The effort is called East Greenbush HERO – Hometown Earned Recognition Operation. This Veteran Banner Program recognizes residents who have protected and served our nation with the military.

HERO was proposed by Ed Nestler, who is a combat veteran who served with the Army. Ed is also a member of our Lodge and the Commander of VFW Post #7338 in East Greenbush.

The first banner that was displayed in June honored Melvin Rhodes, an East Greenbush resident who was killed in action just hours before World War I came to an end.

The HERO program intends to show East Greenbush will never forget the service of our Veterans and their families. Veterans banners are on display throughout the town Memorial Day through Veterans Day each year.

Under the program, Veterans who called East Greenbush their home (or their family members) can sponsor a banner that includes a picture of the Veteran along with the Veteran's name and branch of service. Veterans, or their families, have the ability to choose the roads where the banner will be displayed, based on availability of locations.

Qualifications for a banner are:

The veteran must have been honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces or died in the line of duty.

The veteran must have personal ties to the Town of East Greenbush, such as born in East Greenbush, or resided in East Greenbush at some time in life.

To view the Gallery of Banners or to download a Banner Application, visit:

<https://egmilitarybanners.com/>

Banner Applications (hard copy) can also be found in our Lodge near the Fallen Comrades Table.

Superbowl Party Proceeds

From Ed Miano, Party Coordinator

Thanks to all who helped make the 2023 Superbowl party a fantastic success. Due to the efforts of all involved as well as the fantastic attendance we were able to donate over \$3500 so far to various lodge activities, including but not limited to:

- Trunk or Treat
- Children's Christmas Party
- Children's Easter Egg Hunt
- EGCSO Community Reading Program
- Family Carnival
- Lodge Appreciation Day
- Antlers Program

Event Photos

Toys-for-Tots



Stuffing Competition

Congratulations to Rob Leddick who took home the 1st place prize in the first annual Thanksgiving stuffing competition!



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Breakfast 9:00— 11:00am	4 Red Cross Blood Drive 1:30-6:30	5 House Committee Meeting 6:30pm	6 Dart League	7 Bingo 5pm	8	9
10 Breakfast 9:00— 11:00am	11 Lodge Meeting 7:30pm	12	13 Dart League	14 Bingo 5pm	15	16 Live Music 7- 9pm
17 Breakfast 9am Christmas Party 2pm	18 Antlers Meeting 6:30pm	19	20 Dart League	21 Bingo 5pm	22	23
24 Breakfast 9:00— 11:00am	25 Christmas Day	26	27 Dart League	28 Bingo 5pm	29	30
31 Breakfast 9:00— 11:00am New Years Eve						





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**Marshall G. Wagner
Owner / Director**

**George W. Wagner
Owner / Manager**

**Michael J. Wagner
Owner / Director**

NEWSLETTER SUPPORTERS CLUB

March 2023

Sue Polsinello
In Memory of PER Floyd M Smith

April 2022

Cindy Jeffries
Dave Jeffries
Carol McKay
Lester McKay
Sue Polsinello
Tom Grant
Rockefeller Funeral Home

Rockefeller Funeral Home
George Wagner
Marshall Wagner
Michael Wagner
Frank Heller
In Memory of Fred Hutchinson
Walt Myers

May 2022

JoAnne Netzer
*In Memory of Francis A. Netzer and
John Tiro*

Lawrence E. Rowse, PDDGER
Linda M. Rowse, DDGER

John J. Rowse
Barrett L. Rowse
Christine Rowse
Morgan P. Rowse
Kellynn Rowse Hickam

Emily Rowse Smith
Steven Smith
Sharon Malinoski
Brian P. Rowse
In Memory of

*E. Kevin Rowse
Gertrude B. Rowse
Kevin B. Rowse
M/Sgt. Thomas C. Rowse, USMC
William C. Rowse*

June 2022

Richard C. Carpinello (2022)
In Memory of Albert W. Carpinello

September 2022

Alan Hedge
Marylou Hedge
Steven Hedge
Brian Hedge

October 2022

Jay Staggs
for Rich Bedell and Frank Harper
Patricia McCall
In Memory of Leon Celler, PER
Charles Van Buren

The Past Exalted Rulers of Rensselaer
Lodge remember their Past State and
National Leaders:

Jay Amodeo, PSP
George D'Ambrose, PSVP
Frank P. Lili, PSVP
Alexander Seney, PDDGER
Raymond Daley, PDDGER
Wray E. Tibbetts, PDDGER
Veronica Adriance, PDDGER
Charter Member Hank Rivet

February 2022

David Kretschmar

For only \$5 a year! Your name will appear that month you sign up until the Year 2023! You can also put it "in memory of" a loved one! When the month approaches where your name is listed is when you owe \$5 to renew and be a Supporter for another year. (To those that have already renewed—you are paid through "your month" in 2023). To join – send \$5 to the Lodge.

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**TOM NARDACCI, PDDGER
SECRETARY
ALAN HEDGE
EDITOR**

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