

# The *Elks* NEWS

Hamden Lodge #2224 B.P.O. Elks



APRIL 2024  
VOLUME LXIII

## EXALTED RULERS MESSAGE



Members All,

We have ended the Lodge year with a very busy month. ENF Grant Monies totaling \$8000.00 were distributed to North Haven Community Services And to the Grace and Saint Johns Church dinner program.

As part of the grant, The Lodge also prepared two Sunday dinners serving over 100 meals each day.

Our ENF per capita goal was exceeded by almost three times ensuring the Lodge will receive more grant monies next year. Also, the Lodge reached our fundraising goal for the CT Elks Major Projects supporting the CCMC and CT Special Olympics.

All of this was accomplished by through our members generosity from donations and supporting the Lodge fundraising events. Thanks to all!!!!

St. Patrick's Weekend, Easter Egg Hunt and Fried Dough Pizza Night were all very well attended, thanks to all the member volunteers who made this happen!

We are ending the Lodge year with net gain in membership! Lets keep moving in the positive direction. Consider sponsoring a relative, friend, neighbor, co-worker, to join our growing, active Lodge involved in the community and helping those in need.

This is my final message as ER and I congratulate Mike Romano stepping in as our Exalted Ruler. Please extend to Mike and his team all of the support that you have given to me over these years. I know he will lead us in continuing the

Momentum and success we have achieved.

Five years ago, I established my motto, "A Team Effort will Guarantee Our Success."

I truly believe we have made this happen. I thank you all for being part of this accomplishment. There are more successes to come!

Fraternally

Andy Caporossi PDD

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**B.P.O. Elks**  
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**Lodge Officers 2022-2023**  
*Exalted Ruler*  
Michael Romano  
*Esteemed Leading Knight*  
Andrew Caporossi, PDD  
*Esteemed Loyal Knight*  
Fred Romano  
*Esteemed Lecturing Knight*  
Whitney Batson  
*Secretary*  
Jennifer Caputo  
*Treasurer*  
William Miller  
*Inner Guard*  
Monica Thomas-Hardy  
*Chaplain*  
Kathleen Kelsey  
*Tiler*  
Jessica Kelsey  
*Esquire*  
Peter Freiler PDD PSP  
*5 Year Trustee*  
Richard Hardy  
*4 Year Trustee*  
Lee Campo  
*3 Year Trustee*  
Raymond Bullard  
*2 Year Trustee*  
Bob Bretko, PER  
*1 Year Trustee*  
Timothy Osgood

### Lounge Hours

Tues-Friday 4-Close

Saturday 2 to Close

Permittee—

Mike Romano

## MESSAGE BOARD

Members All,

I'm honored and excited to be the new incoming Exalted Ruler for Hamden Elks Lodge 2224. I understand the duty of honoring all the wonderful ER's who have come before me. I'm reminded of their leadership that have steered our lodge through the winds of change, guiding us with wisdom, dedication, and unwavering commitment. Their legacies are the foundation upon which we stand today, and it is with the utmost respect and gratitude that we honor their contributions. However, as much as we cherish our past, we also recognize the imperative to embrace the opportunities of the present and future. Our lodge is not merely content with resting on past laurels; instead, we are propelled by a collective vision of growth, positivity, and boundless potential.



One of our primary objectives is to expand our charitable endeavors, reaching out to those in need within our community with even greater impact and efficacy. Whether it's supporting local schools, aiding families facing hardships, or contributing to vital causes, we are committed to making a tangible difference in the lives of others. Moreover, I understand the importance of membership growth, not just for the sake of numbers, but for the diversity of ideas, talents, and perspectives it brings to our lodge. We welcome individuals who share our values of service, camaraderie, and compassion, inviting them to join us in our mission to create a better world.

But perhaps most crucially, we recognize that we cannot achieve these goals in isolation. Collaboration and teamwork are at the heart of our approach, both within our lodge, in our community and beyond. By pooling our resources, expertise, and passion, we amplify our impact and extend our reach far beyond what any one of us could accomplish alone. In essence, our Elks Lodge is embarking on a journey of transformation—one that honors our past while embracing the promise of tomorrow. Together, we stand at the threshold of a future filled with boundless possibilities, fueled by a shared commitment to service, growth, and solidarity.

As we look ahead, let us do so with optimism, determination, and a steadfast belief in the power of collective action. With every charitable act, every new member welcomed into our fold, and every partnership forged, we reaffirm our dedication to the principles that define us as Elks.

Fraternally,

Michael Romano, ER



**Hamden Elks Lodge #2224 ,serving Hamden and North Haven recently awarded Grace and St.Johns Church with a \$6000.00 donation to support their weekly Community dinners program.**

**The proceeds were obtained through a grant from the Elks National Foundation.**

**The Church serves dinners each week to individuals and families in the community. The Lodge also prepared a full Sunday dinner serving 100.**

**Pictured in front of the food truck left is**

**Program Coordinator Allison Batson, ER Andy Caporossi, PDD, Vice President Kathy Kelsey and member Whitney Batson; to the right also includes fellow member Jennifer Campbell-Batson.**



## MESSAGE BOARD

### Happy Birthday!

To our members with April Birthdays: Drop in for your free birthday beverage "on the house."

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS!

April 3rd Kielbasa w/  
German Potato Salad \$13

April 10th Stuffed Chicken  
Breast \$14

April 17th Meat Loaf \$14

April 24th Country Style  
Ribs \$13

Eat-in or Take-Out  
Due to the increasing costs of food, it is important for us to plan as accurately as possible to avoid over-buying and waste, we request reservations now **REQUIRED.**  
Deadline is Tuesday before meal by 6 PM  
Leave message  
203-248-2224

**ANNUAL BOCCE LEAGUE**  
*We are all looking forward to another season and hope to get underway in late May. If your team is returning, please let me know. If you would like to start a new team or are looking to be placed on a team, please contact me. Substitute players are also needed.*  
Andy 203-836-4302 or [andycpdd@gmail.com](mailto:andycpdd@gmail.com)

### Regular Lodge Meetings

Monday April 9th

Monday April 23rd  
7:30 PM

**Dues for the 2024-2025 year are now due!**

Regular Members \$131  
Life Members \$77

You will need a valid card to gain access to the Lodge. You can pay the Bartender on duty or contact Secretary Jenn  
[jennycap101@gmail.com](mailto:jennycap101@gmail.com)

### KARAOKE NIGHT!!!!

SATURDAY APRIL 13TH  
7:00-11:00 PM  
WITH DJ MELANIE!!!!

Bob Nick is back with his famous Chicken Wings!!!  
6 for \$8 or 12 for \$15

Members and Guests, friends



To our  
*Absent Members*

#2135 John  
Stempick, Jr.LM

Initiated 06/03/1976  
Departed 03/12/2024

*An Elk is Never  
Forgotten*

### Congratulations to

Lee and Lynn Campo  
Elk(s) Of the Year 2023-2024  
And Mike Romano Officer of  
the Year 2023-2024

They will be honored at the  
Installation of Officers

Sunday, April 7th 2024 at 1pm

Buffet Lunch will follow  
(\$10 per person)

### "A Journey Through Grief"

An 8 week program to help you manage your grief after the loss of a loved one.

### Grief

never ends...  
But it changes.  
It's a passage,  
not a place to stay.  
Grief is not a sign  
of weakness, nor  
a lack of faith...  
It is the price of love.

Author Unknown

#missingyou

Contact  
Lodge  
member  
Bob Johnson at

203-641-4278 or [johnbobson@aol.com](mailto:johnbobson@aol.com)

## MESSAGE BOARD

### TIP of the ANTLERS:

**St. Patricks Weekend:** Kathy Kelsey, Cathy Pleines, Dave DelGrego, Jess Kelsey, Jenn Caputo, Bob Nicolas  
Over 250 meals Served!

**Children's Easter Egg Hunt** Jenn Caputo, Jess Kelsey, Tanya Hill, Monica Thomas-Hardy, Kathy Melillo, Tammy Shea, Gabby Pesticci-Romano Mikey Hardy, Olivia Santoro

**Fried Dough Night:** Marco Minnocci Sr. , Lee Campo, Dave DelGrego, Jenn Caputo, Bob Nicolas.  
Over 100 Served!

## HELP OUR VETERANS

We Are Collecting socks, underwear, hats, personal hygiene items, non perishable food items, gently used books.

All will be delivered to the VA to assist homeless Veterans and those in need.

Due to the increasing cost of postage and printing, we would like to start sending the Newsletter, primarily through email going forward.

Please send your information to our email at [elkslodge2224@gmail.com](mailto:elkslodge2224@gmail.com)

- First and Last name
- Member Number
- E-mail Address

We want you to get your Newsletter and Lodge Updates as soon as possible, virtually

**Clothing Drop off Shed now located in Lodge Parking Lot**

**Please drop off your gently used unwanted Clothing, and other items**

**Spread the word to others**



**Elks Care - Elks Share**



**Feeding the Community**

## MESSAGE BOARD



North Haven Community Services Presentation  
Fred Romano, ER, Andy Caporossi &  
No. Haven Community Services  
Director Robert Snurkowski



Newest Members (l-r) Dan Ford, Demetrius Dailey, Olivia Santoro,  
Todd Richards & Kathy Hoyt with Exalted Ruler Andy Caporossi &  
Leading Knight Mike Romano



## CEAC Elks Bowling Tournament for Major Projects



# March Days

## St Patricks Day



## Fried Dough Night





# Easter Egg Hunt!



**Happy  
Easter**