



# ECHOES

From the Watchung Hills Elks Lodge 885



## Exalted Ruler's Message

- Danny Larsen, PER



Happy New Year 2019!

Well another year has passed us by and a new one presents itself for us to make the most out of.

I was doing some research and digging around and found this ledger where members were repaid for monies loaned to the lodge! I tried piecing together assorted facts and I believe the story goes something like this: In 1962, Lodge Officers were looking for a Home for Watchung Hills Elks Lodge #2252. They finally ended up negotiating with Bardy Real Estate to purchase 6.52 beautiful park-like acres of the Hofheimer property. They had to finance roughly \$50,000.00 of the \$65,000.00 price tag so the Lodge had to raise \$15,000.00 for the down payment on the property. Our second Exalted Ruler Wally Bryan (PER) asked each member to LOAN \$100.00 to the Lodge, explaining this would not be a donation but funds to be paid back with

4% per year interest (hence the ledger). Thirty-eight members stepped up and LOANED close to \$16,000.00 to complete the purchase; these members offered from \$100 to \$1000 dollars each and were eventually repaid with interest. Times were tough and the first several months of Lodge income had to be reinvested in the buildings and grounds to make them suitable for Lodge habitation.

Our Lodge has come a long way since then and continues to evolve. Today's price tag for the 6.52 acres that we occupy here at 1 Elks Trail would come to approximately \$2,000,000.00! We can all be Thankful for the Courage and Foresight of our Founders and for those that carry on the vision of our Lodge.

It's a New Year! Don't let it pass us by – let's all do our best to make the most out of each moment, each opportunity and each chance of living our lives to the fullest – and enjoy our journeys.

## Elks Care - Elks Share

To receive a full-color bulletin by email, ask us to update your email address by sending it to [membership@elkslodge885.org](mailto:membership@elkslodge885.org). We do not have current email addresses for everyone!

### Watchung Hills Elks Lodge #885

1 Elks Trail  
 Warren, NJ 07059  
 908-668-9727  
[news@elkslodge885.org](mailto:news@elkslodge885.org)  
[membership@elkslodge885.org](mailto:membership@elkslodge885.org)  
[www.elkslodge885.org](http://www.elkslodge885.org)

## Officers

Exalted Ruler	Danny Larsen, PER
Esteemed Leading Knight	(vacant)
Esteemed Loyal Knight	Dave Dante
Esteemed Lecturing Knight	Lisa Carracino
Secretary	Paul Lowell, Sr., PER
Treasurer	Donna Lowell, PER
Esquire	(vacant)
Chaplain	Lynn Spurrier
Inner Guard	Walter "Buddy" Rehberger
Tiler	Joanne Rehberger
1 Year Trustee	Betty A. Volker, PDDGER
2 Year Trustee	Francis Bellew, PER
3 Year Trustee	Geno Bataille, Jr., PER
4 Year Trustee	Denise Heilman
5 Year Trustee	Stephanie Zitsch, PER
Justice	(vacant)

# From the Secretary

- Paul Lowell, Sr., PER

As of 12/2/18 we have eleven members who have not renewed their dues for this fraternal year. We would love to see that number become zero lapsed before March 31, 2019.

Annual Dues Notices for the Fraternal Year 2019-2020 will be going out no later than mid-January. Dues for Regular Membership is \$69.00; this consists of \$50.00 for Lodge dues, \$2.00 to the New Jersey State Elks Association, and \$17.00 to the Grand Lodge which breaks down \$6.50 for Grand Lodge operations, \$5.50 for Elks Magazine subscription, and \$5.00 for General Liability Insurance Assessment. Life Members and Honorary Life Membership dues are \$44.00 for the Fraternal Year.



## Committee Chairs

Army of Hope	Danny Larsen, PER
Americanism	<b>(vacant)</b>
Auditing	Kim DeVizio
Buildings and Grounds	David Dante
Charities	Betty A Volker, PDD
Drug Awareness	Gene Bataille, Jr., PER
Elks Memorial Day	David Dante
Elks National Foundation	Joann Bataille
Government Relations	Paul Lowell, Sr., PER
Hoop Shoot	Fran Bellew, PER
Lodge Activities	<b>(vacant)</b>
Membership	Paul Lowell, Sr., PER
Parades	Danny Larsen, ER
Public Relations	Mike Ryder
Ritual	Betty A. Volker, PDD
Scholarships	Fred Hayeck
Soccer Shoot	Fran Bellew, PER
Special Children	Betty A. Volker, PDD
Veterans Services	Fran Bellew, PER
Wildwood Convention	Danny Larsen, ER
Youth Activities	Fran Bellew, PER
Youth Tournament	Fran Bellew, PER

Dues must be paid before March 31, 2019.

For the Past Exalted Rulers, PER Association dues are an additional \$10.00 per year.

Any questions or concerns you may have, please feel free to contact me at xcg395@verizon.net or my cell 908-230-7303.

### Upcoming Important Dates:

#### February 7, 2019

- Past Exalted Ruler Night
- Officer Nominations for the Fraternal Year 2019-2020

#### February 21, 2019

- Election of Officers

## Government Relations Committee

- Paul Lowell Sr., PER



I keep asking for numbers and keep getting the same response "I will get it you". I am begging all Committee Chairs to please, e-mail me your reports. All the pertinent information was published in the Nov-Dec Lodge Bulletin.

## Boosters

- Current as of November 2018

Stephen Terrible PSP  
Sandra Burd PER  
Ken Burd



For \$10.00 a year, you too can be an Echoes Booster.

All proceeds will offset the cost of printing and mailing the Bulletin. Thanks to those who have already pledged their support.



# Special Children's Committee

- Betty A. Volker, PDD



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

The annual Christmas Party was a packed house and a great success. Morley the Magician (<https://www.morleymagicshop.com/>) was fantastic and kept the children captivated and entertained until Santa arrived. Santa and the Elves did a wonderful job with the gifts and putting smiles on the faces of all the children. There were many Elves helping with setup, food and clean up. Please know that your efforts are very much appreciated!!! Thank you so very much for volunteering and being there for our special kids. Special thanks to Deni Heilman for handling the planning and all the shopping, Kim "Kimmers" DeVizio for handling the kitchen, and Paul Steager and his granddaughter for being "Santa" and his helper. Thank you all for all you do as Elks.

We still have some Camp Moore raffle calendars on sale. They are \$20 each and run from January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019. Contact me if you are interested in purchasing.

The Central District SCC will be hosting a charity ball on Saturday, March 9, 2019 at Carteret Lodge. All proceeds will benefit Camp Moore.

Camp Moore applications for the 2019 summer sessions have been distributed to the families and will be submitted as they are returned. If you know anyone in the Warren, Watchung, Plainfield areas who may want to join our Special Children's family, please contact me.

I wish you all a very Happy, Healthy, Safe and Blessed New Year!!



## Officer Nominations

- Danny Larsen, ER

Hello Fellow Members

February will be the time once again to nominate our Lodge Officers. Please, if you have interest in the Lodge consider running for one of these Exciting and

Rewarding Positions:

- Exalted Ruler
- Leading Knight
- Loyal Knight
- Lecturing Knight
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- 5 year Trustee
- Alternate to the Exalted Ruler

At our first February meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup>, anyone can nominate anyone for any position. If multiple people run for the same position then an election takes place at the second February meeting (on the 21<sup>st</sup>) under a silent vote. Nominees can either accept or decline. If there are no run-offs the Secretary will cast one ballot for all of the nominated Officers.

Please come out and participate in the nomination of your Lodge Officers at the February 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> meetings.

Installation of officers will be scheduled for late March-early April – stay tuned.

**GET INVOLVED!**

## Elks National Foundation Committee

- Joann Bataille



Elks  
National  
Foundation

Charities donated \$500 to The Food Bank Network of Somerset County for thanksgiving meals. This Christmas the lodge donated \$750 to The Food Bank Network, where we adopted 3 local families to help with their needs.

## Bar prices increasing

- Stephanie Zitsch, PER, Bar Manager

I hope everyone had a wonderful and happy holiday season.

As of February 1, 2019 the prices at the bar for alcoholic drinks will be rising by \$0.25. Our prices haven't changed in several years but unfortunately, the costs of beer and liquor have steadily risen over the years and are continuing to rise.



**ElksBenefits**

Elks Members Benefits and Discounts

Did you know that the BPOE offers members these special discounted services?

- Home, Auto, Life and Pet Insurance
- Travel Insurance
- Discounts from services such as LifeLock
- Discounts at many retailers such as Office Depot

Visit <https://elksbenefits.com> for these and other offers.



**WE NEED YOU!**

How to get new members?  
**ASK THEM!**



## Veterans Services Committee

- Francis Bellew, PER



Doug Buro's mother-in-law Mary Malave knitted 29 scarves, and Kathy Schultz collected 7 coats. These were delivered to homeless veterans in building 53 at the Lyons VA Hospital and Veterans Haven North.

We are also collecting items for "Welcome Packages" to be delivered to military personnel that will be deployed in March. Toiletries, hard candy, gum, razors, Elk magazines, playing cards, etc., to be boxed and shipped to APO addresses. Collecting now through March.



## Toys for Tots

- Mike Dalton

"Every Child Deserves a Little Christmas"

Thanks to the generosity of the Watchung Hills Elks members, approximately 40 to 45 toys were collected for the Marine Toys for Tots Program.

You can read more about the program here:

<https://www.toysfortots.org>



## Sickness & Distress



- Steve Terrible is recuperating from surgery and receiving physical therapy.
- Melodie Doremus and Donna Lowell (PER) are scheduled for surgery in the first week of January.



## Cub Scouts

- Tricia Patricco, Pack 182 Public Relations

### Scouting is Doing!

On Tuesday, December 18, Pack 182 held their annual Sing-Along at the Chelsea assisted-living facility in Warren. Thirty-four Cub Scouts and their parents sang holiday songs with approximately twenty residents, bringing smiles to everyone. All joined in singing "Deck the Halls," "Jingle Bells," "I have a Little Dreydl" and others. Afterwards, the Cub Scouts were encouraged to mingle with the seniors and exchange stories. The folks there are always happy when we visit, since our Scouts are so well-behaved and they enjoy having youthful souls around.



### Garage Loft Status

With the approval of the Elks Board of Directors and Building and Ground committee, some Cub Scout parents and Elk members volunteered to help tidy and repair the garage loft in preparation for Pack 182 to store their equipment in it. The refuse was disposed of, and Elk personal belongings were relocated to the lower level to make it easy for them to be taken home.

This work has been coordinated by Cub Scouts and Elks members Adam Gioia, Michael Ryder and the rest of the Pack 182 Committee. Considerable labor has been provided by Elks and Scouters Craig Slater and Elia Shehady. Thanks for guidance go to Danny Larsen and David Dante.



Please refrain from using the garage 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to store anything that isn't Cub Scout related.

Other work that was done:

- radiators were cut-up for easy removal
- a window was replaced
- some plywood was installed on the floor to strengthen/repair it.

Still to do:

- continue to lay plywood down to cover the entire floor
- install plywood to repair holes in the walls and ceiling
- install lighting fixtures and electrical outlets
- install a lock for added security.



1/1 Frank Fronsoni  
 Theresa Fronsoni  
 Frank Giannelli  
 Jane Giannelli  
 Tom Mullen  
 Cathy Rickards  
 Jonathan Smick  
 Michael Solomon  
 1/5 Audrey Lipinski  
 Robert Venitelli  
 1/6 Joseph Giardina  
 1/7 Laura Schweitzer  
 1/9 Kevin Deutsch  
 1/10 Natasha Jiovino  
 William Jones

1/11 Steve Logothetis  
 1/13 Michael McGinnis  
 1/15 Henry Elberle III  
 1/17 Stephen Engler  
 1/18 Billy Kopsaftis  
 1/20 Mary Bastian  
 1/24 Tim Lasecla  
 1/28 Kim Devizio  
 1/28 Daniel Lamontagne  
 1/31 Denise Heilman

## JANUARY 2019

Find the calendar online at our website: <https://www.elkslodge885.org>, then click Events and then "Main Calendar"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's Day Pot Luck	2	3  <b>Lodge Meetings</b> Officers – 7 pm General – 8 pm	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 <b>BOD Meeting</b> 7 pm	16	17  <b>Lodge Meetings</b> Officers – 7 pm General – 8 pm	18	19
20	21	22 <b>PER Meeting</b> 7:30 pm	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**Elks Care - Elks Share**

Watchung Hills Elks #885  
1 Elks Trail  
Warren, NJ 07059

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## Watchung Hills Elks Lodge #885 is online!

Point your smart-phone's QR-Code reader application (freely available if you don't already have one) at these images to jump to our sites. Bookmark our website so you can check the Lodge calendar. "Like" our Facebook page so you can stay in touch with the daily goings-on.



<https://www.elkslodge885.org>



<https://www.facebook.com/elks885>

"So Long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."