

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year! Seasons Greetings!

Let me be the first to welcome you to December and to wish you and your family a joyous and healthy Holiday Season!

With that said, I'll say that November was Great—we had an amazing turnout for our Veterans Event and Friendsgiving—well—let me say that if anyone says that they went home hungry from that event—they're lying. And for those of you that helped—do dishes, clean tables, make food—THANK YOU so much. The friendship and camaraderie of that evening was great! It was soooo great—how great was it you ask? It was so great that I hope to see all of you out at the Christmas party on the 15th. Join your fellow Elks to celebrate Christmas. As the song goes I don't know if there'll be snow, but have a cup of cheer!

At the same time, we start our month of December with one of the Elks most important events—our Elks Memorial Day. We remember those that we've lost over the past year, we treasure their memories and we know that we will meet again. This year we remember 9 members that we have lost—**Robert Anderson, Harold Phillips, John Blake, Jeffrey Dayton, Donald Creighton, Robert Geisler, Roger Brake, Robert Willey and Jesse Hurley, Jr.** Please keep their families and fond memories in mind during this Christmas season. We lost a total of 270 years of membership—from these gentle Elks—that's a lot of memories.

Speaking of giving, we're continuing our preparations for Christmas. We've got the Hall started, there is the smell of peppermint in the Lounge air. But we not only want to make Christmas bright for our members, but also for our community. When you come out to the Lodge, bring some non-perishable food—we've got a collection box for it and all that food will help those in need in Cambridge. Remember our highest virtue as an Elk is Charity—not of alms, but the higher, nobler Charity of Thought, Word and Deed. The influence of a good deed will continue forever. A box of food, or can of soup may not seem like much by itself, but when all of us give a can or two (or more), we can really brighten another's day and, in the words of the Lecturing Knight—we lighten each others burdens and give rest to the weary.

I need to call out a few Elks as being above and beyond this month. I have to THANK Jerry Rollyson for the Elks table centerpieces. They are amazing. Trish Knox—what a decorator extraordinaire you are. Thanks for the decorations! And finally, the man, the myth, the Legend himself—Shawn McKenna. Shawn prepped the turkeys for the Friendsgiving—and boy was that great, but that's not the whole story. Shawn has been the caller, the comedy show, the man with a heart for the last two years to get Bar Bingo to where it is. He's made Bar Bingo into an event each and every week. We've grown membership because of this, we've grown many friendships because of this, and it's all because he's made it his a goal to have fun each and every week. THANK YOU SHAWN.

Activities around this month—a Cookie Exchange (ya gotta sign up though), Turkey Shoots, the Christmas Party, the Bar Bingo party. Remember the Turkey shoots are still the cheapest hunting method around.

Finally, remember—we've got New Years Eve with Hot Dog Gravy playing. Mark your Calendars! We'll have tickets available for this soon. Follow on FaceBook, stop at the Lodge and BE READY TO RING IN 24 with your friends at the ELKS

Together we MOVE FORWARD, We are THE ELKS.

Fraternally, Rich Loeffler Jr– Exalted Ruler

DD Visit on Dec. 7th—Join us at the Lodge for the meeting and meet our District Deputy Rick Frere. He has to visit all the Lodges. Come on out, and let's show him what Cambridge is all about.

**Welcome to our newly Initiated Members:** Megan Airey, Ronal Bryan, and Susan Russ

**Members Awaiting Initiation:** Matthew Bramble, Lyle Cameron, Carl Dunnock, Ashley Greenhawk, Taylor Harding, Audrey Romann, Colleen Ruark, Danielle Steffan, and Jeffrey James Tyler

**Proposed Members Awaiting Balloting:** Austin Ball and Shannon Hulliger.

### **Sickness & Distress—Prayers and Thoughts!**

**Lodge of Sorrows for Robert Willey, Jr, Robert Geisler, and Jesse Hurley Jr.**

Thinking of you to Russell Justis

If you know of anyone sick or in distress please let Rich Jr or Eva Bartrum know!

### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS TO MEMBERS**

**LODGE SECRETARY**—For your questions about dues, etc. you can contact Kendra Nichols at 410-463-1531 or kpnichols1967@gmail.com. If you are not getting LODGE EMAIL UPDATES, but would like to receive them, please contact Kendra to be sure we have your correct email address.

**FOR HALL RENTAL INFO**—CONTACT JOHN KNOX—443-521-5803