



A Fraternal Organization

Elk Echoes

Cohoes-Waterford Elks Lodge #1317

June 2020

“Success Happens When We All Work Together”

Members All:

I hope this message finds you well. I would like to start by congratulating Paul C. Galarneau, who was sworn in as President of the New York State Elks Association and to Robert Lumpkins as our State Vice President on Saturday, May 16th. Best wishes to all the new and returning State Chairman as well. We also have an all-star in our midst – PER Regina Hogan is a Northeast District Ritual All-Star who took first place as Inner Guard. Congratulations Regina! Congratulations & Thank you to PER Bill Rosenberger for accepting the appointed position of Tiler after it was recently left vacant.

Since our Lodge has been closed by the Governor’s Executive Order, we have accomplished much, while at all times following every guideline from the CDC, Governor & Grand Lodge. Our Lodge Secretary and Treasurer are keeping current with their responsibilities as well as our Board of Trustees. Phone calls were made to each member to let them know they are in our thoughts during this difficult time & asked if they needed anything. Treasurer Renee is to be commended for taking the lead to assist the Back Pack Program for Waterford Elementary School students. Lodge Officers and members made food & monetary donations to the three pick-up times during May. Inner Guard Regina coordinated the Lodge’s purchase of gift bag items at Marra’s Pharmacy for the 80 healthcare workers at Marjorie Doyle Rockwell Center in Cohoes to thank them for their dedication & care to seniors. PER Regina received assistance from Marra’s Pharmacy who assembled the gift bags. Our Lodge also hosted a blood drive on May 18th. On May 27th, our amazing fish sale returned, no walk-ins/phone orders only and contactless curbside delivery of food to customers. Thanks to House Committee Chair Stan and the House Committee who have been busy making repairs and renovations to the Lodge and to all members who pitched in to clean the inside and outdoors. The inside of the Lodge and outside grounds look so much better – it really makes a big difference! Since we were unable to march in the Waterford and Cohoes Memorial Day Parades this year, the Officers held a brief outdoor Memorial Day Ceremony on May 20th at our outdoor Flag Poles. (See related article & photos in this Newsletter) We are currently deciding how and when to hold a regular Lodge meeting in both a safe way and in accordance with recommended guidelines.

We recently received official word that the Grand Lodge Convention has been cancelled, which is a disappointment in so many ways. As you already know, the annual Flag Day Service is mandated under Section 2.030 of the Laws of the Order. PGER Carr and Special Representative Hidley decided that in accordance with the Governor’s directive for Memorial Day services that our Lodges should follow the same guidelines for the Elks Flag Day services. June is also our Father’s Day Breakfast. We are all disappointed not to be able to hold this annual Breakfast to honor our Lodge & Cohoes-Waterford Fathers.

In closing, please stay safe and take care of yourselves. Hope to see you soon!

Fraternally,
ER Rich

Lodge Officers
Cohoes-Waterford Lodge #1317
Lodge Phone Number (518) 235-3222

Richard Hogan, Jr., Exalted Ruler	518-237-4986(h)/222-4167(c)
Jeff Matthews, Est. Leading Knight	518-365-7623
Lorraine Hobart, Est. Loyal Knight	518-410-6694
Harold Felt, Est. Lecturing Knight	518-605-8136
Valerie Ridgeway, Secretary	518-852-3670
Renee Bott, PSVP Treasurer	518-235-3284(h)/209-7481(c)
Margaret Kehn, PER Esquire	518-320-0166
Regina Hogan, PER, Inner Guard	518-237-4986(h)/225-0778(c)
William Rosenberger, PER, Tiler	518-527-3179
Kevin Lysogorski, Chaplain	518-331-8009

Trustees

Nancy Roberts (Chairperson)	518-269-2219
Aggie Lebrecht	518-598-9944
Carol Bronakowski	518-237-0087(h)/369-7255(c)
William Heffelfinger, PER	518-424-8304
Maryann Corwin	518-322-6644



**We would like to wish all Elk Father's a
Happy Father's Day!!!**

Congratulations to State President Paul C. Galarneau



On Saturday, May 16th, Paul C. Galarneau was installed as the NYS Elks State President by Past Grand Tiler Paul A. Galarneau. The Installation was broadcasted on Facebook Live and saved as a video and posted on the New York State Elks Association Webpage.

Below is State President Paul's acceptance speech:

I would like to thank Past Grand Exalted Ruler David Carr, Grand Trustee Bruce Hidley and the entire Advisory Board for their confidence in granting me this amazing opportunity. Let me also take a moment to congratulate all of the newly installed State Officers, State Trustees and State Vice-Presidents. And although our Installations were not quite done in the manner that we were hoping and expecting, it is still an exciting time and an amazing accomplishment. I look forward to being able to work with each of you during the upcoming year. Kristen and I can't wait until we are able to meet you all in person and visit the Members and the Lodges within your District. It is truly an honor for me to be able to serve our Association with all of you.

Congratulations to our Newest Past State President, Brian Greene and Tonia on the completion of a fantastic year. You guys have earned the right to take it easy for a little while. Kristen and I have enjoyed getting to know you and we are thankful for all the insights that you have shared. When allowed, we look forward to making our own memories as we get the pleasure of traveling across this great State.

I would like to introduce my family who came to join us today. My wife Kristen, and children Tyler and Riley. Most of you already know my parents, Paul and Cathy, My Brothers, who have always been there for me, Shayne and Ed, with Ed is his better half Kim, and my sister-in-law Debbie. Everything I am is because of all of them and I truly appreciate everything they have done for us.

I want to thank my father, Past Grand Tiler Paul A. Galarneau for installing me as State President. What an honor it is, to be able to be installed by my father. He installed me as Exalted Ruler and now as State President, something that probably hasn't happened too often.

My General Chairman, District Deputy Designate Renee Bott, was unbelievable in her coordination in our fundraising and her organization of my campaign, and I couldn't have imagined a better lead up to this point. She is a very dear friend and I am glad she agreed to take this on, she certainly made my job much easier.

I need to thank the Members of the Northeast District for all of their support during the past year. Their constant and consistent effort, assistance and support that was put into our fundraising was unbelievable. We set a goal and because of all of you, we surpassed it with ease. I am in debt to each and every one of you. I cannot say Thank you enough to all of you for your support and also, a huge Thank you to the members of all the other Districts who supported our Fundraising efforts during the past year. It is because of all you and your Lodge's generosity that our organization is so successful.

I would not be able to be here without the support of my wife Kristen, although it hasn't always been easy, she has always understood why I dedicated as much energy and time into the Elks. She has made this all possible for me and without her by my side, it wouldn't be nearly as rewarding. For my children Tyler and Riley, I am proud of their accomplishments, both in school and athletics, but most of all, Kristen and I have always strived to show them to reach out and help when you can and I have seen their commitment to always lend a hand to someone in need, and that makes me a proud Dad! I Love you all.

This year, I chose the motto, "*Making a Difference in our Community*". Simply stated, this should be the goal of every District, of every Lodge, of every Officer, and of every Member, each and every day. It is up to each one of us, as members, to make our community a better place to be and a better place to live. The opportunities to do this are endless. As Elks, we are not tied to one specific idea, or one specific need, but we get the unique opportunity to choose how we can make a difference. Each of our communities are different and so are our Lodges, but when we are willing to put the effort in, we can find ways to connect with our community and the members in our community in a positive and constructive way. That connection is an opportunity to make all the difference in the lives of a person, a family, a neighbor or even the entire community.

Soon, as we are able to come out of the isolation that this virus has created, and resume a lifestyle that we would consider to be "normal" again, there are going to be countless opportunities for us to be of assistance, and a need for our Lodges to get involved and make a difference in our communities.

It is up to us to find the times, the needs, and those opportunities, and it is up to us to be out there willing to provide the comforts, the helping hands and open arms that our neighbors will so desperately want and need. People are going to be looking to get out of their homes and do something, and they are going to start by looking for something close to home. Be there for them, and give them a reason to look at your Lodge for that comfort.

As Americans, our innate human nature is to help and unite with each other during a time of crisis, as Elks, this is who we are all the time and we need to be the guiding light for our communities during this difficult time. Soon, we will have a very unique opportunity to showcase our Lodges and open the eyes and minds of the members of our communities to our great organization. We need to take full advantage of that opportunity and find a way to make a difference.

It is my belief that the Elks are a true "grassroots", small community organization and what will increase the influence of the Elks as a whole, will not be changes from the Grand Lodge or the State Association, but the Local Lodges working in unison with their communities to be there for them, in any way necessary.

In a time when due to social media, the internet and 24 hour new channels, our communities have become more global and the "small town feel" that used to create a sense of security is, for the most part, gone. Most of us do not know our neighbors in the same manner as we used to, many

neighborhoods have lost the generational legacy that used to exist. The personal connection is gone, and conversation is usually now a text, an email, or a Facebook comment. Today, with everyone getting used to “Social Distancing”, it is going to become even harder for a Lodge to create the “Home” environment that it takes for us to succeed. We need to find a way to change this and bring back that personal connection, we need to bring back the feel of being a family. If we can do that, a stronger, more vibrant membership will emerge.

All of our Lodges are looking for success and prosperity, but this does not happen without a lot of effort and it will not come easy. It will continue to take hard work by our Membership, to bring our Lodges to the levels that they belong. We cannot rest on our past successes, and we cannot be content with where we are. Just because we consider ourselves to be the Best People On Earth, we should not be satisfied with just having the title, but we need to go and earn it, each and every day. No great athlete ever became great without a desire to be the best. They had the commitment, the drive, the focus, and they put in all the hard work and effort to be great. No great innovation came without a need, the thought to fulfill that need, and the drive, the focus, the hard work and effort to see it through to its completion.

For our Lodges to be successful, we also need to have the thought, commitment, drive and focus to make a difference in our communities. We must stand ready to put in all the hard work and effort that is needed. We also need to know that there will be failures and frustrations, and that they will need to be overcome. We need to be resilient and dedicated and we need to work together to achieve our goals. Right now, there are way too many people in our communities that have no idea who we are or what we do, and it is the responsibility of each and every one of us to change that. Embrace our existing programs and use them as a way to grow your Lodge’s footprint in your community. The pathway for these programs to be successful has already been laid, and it is up to us to follow them.

This year, my challenge to each of our Lodges is simple, go and find at least one new need in your community and work with your membership to Make a Difference in Your Community. Look for something new, something your Lodge has never done or been a part of before. Find a way to connect, Find a way to make a difference! Find a way to get your members to work together and accomplish something wonderful, Make a Difference in Your Community.

In closing, I know that these are very difficult and frustrating times. Each of our personal lives have been knocked around quite a bit. I know that like me, you miss your Lodge and you miss your fellow members, and you miss the camaraderie. We miss the freedoms that we are all accustomed to, like going to the grocery store and be able to go up and down whatever aisle we want to. We miss going out for dinner and drinks, and we miss seeing a live show. We miss gathering together.

People are gatherers, we gather to eat, we gather to mourn, we gather to help, and we gather to celebrate. Someday soon, we will once again be able to gather... together. I look forward to having the ability to gather with all of you!

“Making a Difference in our Community”

Veterans Corner

Regina M. Hogan, PER, Veterans Service Chairperson

With the Governor's Executive Order regarding the pandemic is still in effect, so many Veterans Service activities are on hold. The VA Hospital is still closed to all outside events. We miss serving ice cream to our hospitalized veterans & hope the time will be soon when we can resume our scheduled visits. Susan Wells' Stars for Troops is still unable to meet at our Lodge for their monthly Stars Party. As soon as they are able to return, please consider joining me to help assemble the Stars packets at one or more of their monthly events. I'm still uncertain that we can hold our annual Veterans Appreciation Breakfast at the end of August. Please look in a future Newsletter for updates.

SP Paul, as our Grants Administrator, will submit our application for a Freedom Grant proposal to take Saratoga & Albany Co. homeless veterans transitioning to permanent housing on personal shopping trips for needed household items. This worked out well with last year's Grant that enabled me to take 12 Saratoga County male & female veterans on shopping trips.

During June, we remember the following patriotic dates:

June 6th - the 76th anniversary of D-Day, the 1944 World War II Allied Invasion in Normandy, France;

June 14th – Flag Day, officially established by a proclamation by President Woodrow Wilson issued May 30, 1916. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is the first & only fraternal organization to require formal observance of Flag Day. The annual Flag Day Service is mandated under Section 2.030 of the Laws of the Order.

June 14th - 245th Birthday of the US Army

June 25th – 70th Commemoration of the start of the Korean War

As always, everyone please stay well!

Regina M. Hogan, PER
Veterans Service Chairperson

FROM THE SECRETARY:

Hello everyone all and I hope that this newsletter finds everyone healthy and safe.

The lodge continues to be closed for most lodge activities, with the exception of cleaning and maintaining the property. Even though we have been closed the PSVP Renee and I continue our responsibilities to the lodge and the members. Bills are being paid and dues are being processed. I have sent 60 day letters out to the members who were dropped from the roster during the month of March. If you know of any of those members who would like to be reinstated please reach out to me. Everyone should have received a 2nd dues statement either via an email or thru the regular mail. At the present time there are 57 delinquent members. Please send in your payment as soon as you can.

If you need to talk please do not hesitate to contact me at

vrldgeway@nycap.rr.com or 518-852-3670.



At the recommendation of our Lodge Sponsor I have recently been appointed by the Past District Deputy Association of the Northeast District Chairperson for Charitable Records. As Secretary I have been responsible for reporting any and all charitable functions that we as lodge have done. With this appointment I will be the coordinator between the State Chairperson and the Lodges of the District.

I recently received a communication from Joseph Benoit, PDDGER, State & District Charitable Records Chairman.

This year has been very difficult for the Charitable Records Reporting as many of our programs will not be happening or have been severely reduced.

“I am reaching out to all Elk Members that participate in any type of charitable function you may be doing on your own, which is not part of an Elks Committee. Some examples of what I am looking for include, but are not limited to the following:

We have members that volunteer their time at Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Food Banks, Schools or other organizations. Some spend time coaching youth sports teams, or being a scout master, or other youth event, sending care packages to Military people (even if it's a son/daughter if you send enough for them to share).

Make donations to any organization such as St Jude, American Heart Association, or the like. This time of the Covid-19 Virus has added many new opportunities such as checking on neighbors, family, or the elderly to see if they need help to get through this very difficult time, making face masks, for people or groups, or many other things. As an Elk, if you do any of these things, our organization can and should take credit for them. Your name will never be used in the reporting; only the Hours and miles spent doing the work, and the dollar value of cash or non-cash donation.

It is extremely important for us to keep our Charitable Records Reporting as high as we can by taking credit for all we do. There is so much that we do that never gets reported and much credit is lost. Please help me to increase our credits by letting us report on all you do. If you don't know the actual hours or Miles, it is OK to use an estimated amount. All you have or will do from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 is reportable. Send the info whenever it happens.

Send the information by e-mail to me at vrldgeway@nycap.rr.com and put “CHARITY REPORT” on the subject line.

I can't wait to spend time with all of you when the Covid-19 crisis has ended.

Please stay safe and remember to follow the CDC guidelines to keep you and your loved ones healthy and safe.

Fraternally,

Valerie A. Ridgeway, Lodge Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

COHOES WATERFORD ELKS TAKE OUTS

JUNE 3	½ CHICKEN BBQ
JUNE 10	CHICKEN/BISCUITS
JUNE 17	MEATBALL SUBS AND FRENCH FRIES SAUSAGE/PEPPERS AND FRENCH FRIES CHICKEN WINGS
JUNE 24	FISH MENU

PHONE ORDERS ONLY

CALL 518-235- 3222 / 518-527-3179 TO PLACE ORDER

June Birthdays

01	Raymond LePage
01	Vic Pugliano
02	Edward B. Cheney
02	Robert P. Kelly
03	Nancy J. Roberts
08	Robert M. McAllister
08	Gary E. O'Connor
11	Katherine Darmetko
12	Elaine M. Houle
14	Neil O. O'Brien
15	Robert A. Johnson
18	Daniel P. O'Brien
19	Robert J. Cavosie
22	William J. Charbonneau
25	Paul A. Galarneau
28	Eric Cepiel



**Happy Birthday
June Babies!!**

FREE DRINK

Present this coupon to the
bartender for a free
birthday drink.

Name _____

Date of
Birth _____

Have you moved or changed your email address? Please let us know so we can update our information. We want to keep you updated with everything that is happening at the Lodge. Send updated information to elkechoes1317@yahoo.com



Waterford Backpack Program –

When the Lodge closed due to the pandemic, the Officers wanted to do something to help our Community. Organizations were contacted in our Community and the Waterford Backpack Program was in need of our help. Boxes of food were packed and picked up on April 19th, May 3rd and May 17th. Approximately \$1500 worth of food was donated by the Officers, Members and even Non-Members. The School Social Worker and School Nurse, who runs the program, were very thankful to us. Elks Care, Elks Share!

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Our monthly newsletter reaches over 3,000 people each month and is a great way to "spread the word".

If you would like information about getting space in our newsletter, please reach out to our Secretary, Valerie Ridgeway or email the lodge at elkechoes1317@yahoo.com Thanks!

June 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Lodge Closed Summer Hours	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Flag Day Lodge Closed Summer Hours	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Father's Day Lodge Closed Summer Hours	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

ELK ECHOES

Cohoes-Waterford
Lodge 1317

Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks

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