

The *Elks* NEWS

Hamden Lodge #2224 B.P.O. Elks

EXALTED RULER'S MESSAGE



Members All,

After three long months, our Lodge re-opened on June 17, observing the guidelines of the state's Phase 2 plan. It was great to see several members come down and have a chance to catch up on all that has transpired in the last 90-plus days. We are anticipating that once Phase 3 kicks in (hopefully in mid-July), we can return to a schedule of activities including Wednesday Night Dinners and weekend Socials. We still cannot provide dates and details until we officially get the "green light." So watch for more information.

During the "shutdown" period, the business of the Lodge continued. Through today's technology, we were able to conduct our meetings through Zoom, and in June, we conducted two outdoor meetings. It certainly was different, but all went well and we all adapted to the situation.

Our work in the community continued as well. Our non-perishable food drive enabled two trips to the Local pantries, and proceeds from ENF grants were distributed to the Hamden Food Bank and North Haven Congregational Church Pantry (*photo featured in last issue*). We conducted our annual Flag Day program, this year in front of our Lodge Home, without the usual fanfare, but a dignified program was conducted to honor our Flag and our Nation (*below*).

Now we need to focus our attention to the financial

health of our Lodge. During the months of the shutdown, we lost much needed revenue from Lodge activities and especially Hall Rentals. Utility bills, insurance, maintenance expenses still needed to be paid. We will still continue to have a decrease in income as we anticipate a slow return to normal. Our loss of revenue could be as high as 35-40% for the year. Just think of how your household budget would be affected if you had a loss of more than one-third income? In an effort to infuse some much needed cash-flow to help pay current bills and build a reserve in anticipation of future bills, we are again asking our members to consider a contribution to our Lodge Support Fund. You will receive more information on this soon. Thank You in advance, for your generosity.

Let us not lose sight of the purpose of the existence of our Elks Lodge. Remember, we are committed to serving the youth, veterans and those in need in the Hamden-North Haven community. As a privilege of membership, we offer our Lodge Home where members can get together, socialize and enjoy the camaraderie of friends. Giving back to the community and having a good time while doing so is a win-win!! Let us all recognize this great asset that we all are a part of and further recognize that our best days lie ahead. Your support is the key to our future. Remember, a team effort will guarantee our success. Regards to all to continue to stay safe and be well.

Fraternally, *Andy Caporossi*, PDD, ER

ENF GRATITUDE GRANT

Hamden Lodge received a **\$2000 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant (ENF)**. ENF Grant Coordinator Tony Del Grego PER cited the increase in demand on local food pantries as a result of a greater number of out-of-work families needing assistance because of the corona virus shutdown. \$1000 checks were given to the Hamden Food Bank (*accepted by Program Manager Sharon Jones, below*) and the North Haven Congregational Church Pantry (*featured in last issue*). Last year, for every dollar contributed by our Lodge members, the Lodge received more than twice that amount back in grant funding. Please consider a donation to the ENF so we can continue our good works in the community.



FLAG DAY 2020



During times such as these, it's more important than ever that our Lodge honors our flag and what it represents. This year our Flag Day Ceremony was conducted by officers, PERs and members in front of our Lodge. Thank you to those who participated. Lodges across the nation and its territories are mandated to celebrate Flag Day, which was originated by the National Elks.



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LODGE OFFICERS 2020-21

- Exalted Ruler*
ANDREW CAPOROSSI, PDD
Esteemed Leading Knight
VACANT
Esteemed Loyal Knight
LOUIS HIGHKIN
Esteemed Lecturing Knight
PHILIP WILSON, PDD, PSP
Secretary
JENNIFER CAPUTO
Treasurer
JOHN ZALESKI
Inner Guard
FRED ROMANO
Chaplain
KATHY KELSEY
Tiler
RAY BULLARD
Esquire
MIKE ROMANO
5 Year Trustee
TONY DINICOLA
4 Year Trustee
ROBERT BANKOWSKI
3 Year Trustee
LEE CAMPO
2 Year Trustee
VACANT
1 Year Trustee
ROBERT BRETKO, PER

Lounge HOURS

Stay Safe and Healthy...
Opening Per Phase 2 Guidelines
WED/THURS/FRI – 4pm - closing
SAT – 2pm - closing
Permittee – Michael Romano

MESSAGE BOARD

HELP NEEDED

As we continue our Lodge cleanup, painting, upgrades and **preparations for our GRAND RE-OPENING**, we need your help. We have a small crew who have been meeting weekly Saturday mornings starting at 9am and continuing until the last volunteers leave all while "Social Distancing." We are continuing painting of the Lodge interior, replacing the upper hall ceiling tiles, as well as making other repairs and needed upgrades.

This is our Lodge and fully supported by Volunteers to maintain what we do for our Veterans, Children and Community. We rely on your generosity in time and monetarily to continue our good work and support our Lodge as well.

Whether it be a few hours a day or several days, if you can fit some time into your schedule it would be appreciated. Below is a partial list of what we are in need of assistance with.

Painting, cleaning of chairs, tables, bar, kitchen, painting and assembly of our corn-hole games, Floor stripping and polishing, grounds cleanup. Electrical: (replace light fixtures, switches and plugs), plumbing (faucet and drain repair counter top replacement). Stop by and see the upgrades. Call email or text Bob Bankowski at 203-619-4376 or Bob@quinnre.com.

Thank you for whatever support you can give.

**Stay safe, Stay well,
Hamden Lodge # 2224 Trustees**

We are looking forward to another enjoyable **BOCCE LEAGUE SEASON**. Our Bocce League will start either July 9th or 16th. Teams and captains have been notified. Watch for further information. We will play an abbreviated schedule this year. If you would like to play contact Andy Caporassi andycpdd@gmail.com. This is a fun league! We are looking to add more teams and players. Members and their guests are invited to play. Deadline July 5.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our members with **July Birthdays**: Drop in for your free birthday beverage "on the house."

Please take a moment to pay your **2020-21 LODGE DUES** that was **due and payable April 1 2020**. Regular members: \$100, Life Members \$46. Reminder notices were recently mailed out to those now delinquent. Be sure you have a yellow card in order to gain admission to the Lodge when we re-open. Thanks for your continued support. If you have any questions contact Secretary Jenn Caputo jennycap101@gmail.com.

Though our Lodge Home is closed, we are still conducting our charitable programs in the community. **PLEASE DROP OFF YOUR NON-PERISHABLE FOODS TO THE LODGE**. We will deliver what we collect to the food banks/food pantries. The drop off box is located in the foyer to the rear entrance of the Lodge — it is open and accessible. **Elks Care – Elks Share**.

I send you greetings from the **CONNECTICUT ELKS ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**. We have been asked by President Sabio to reach out to all the Lodges, introduce ourselves and share the goals of the committee.

Our committee consists of Suzanne Novaco PER, Joann Donnel PDD and Sharon Stewart. The three of us will be reaching out through the year and we are always available for any questions or ideas you may have.

We all know due to the Covid 19 Pandemic that fundraising will be a challenge this year at both the State level as well as your Lodge level.

It is our goal as the Connecticut Elks Fundraising Committee to work with the Lodges so our State can work together to reach the goal of \$100,000 to CCMC.

Our first fundraiser of the year is a reminder. Many of you shop on Amazon and it is our hope that we can ask you to support Connecticut Elks Association Charities Inc. by shopping at smile.amazon.com. Your existing Amazon account can easily link up to the smile account.

Everyone has events that are right around the corner and this is the perfect time to turn your shopping into a force for good. Shop at Smile.amazon.com/ch/47-4980476 and Amazon donates to Connecticut Elks Association Charities Inc. It is so simple for all of us to support our Connecticut Elks Association Charities Inc. on a regular basis while doing something we love.

It is our hope that through the year, working together and trying some new fundraising ideas our State will reach our goal to CCMC.

Fraternally,
Sharon Stewart, Joann Donnel PDD,
Suzanne Novaco PER
Connecticut Elks Association Charities Inc.

TO OUR Absent Members

2034 THOMAS KOSKY
INITIATED 06-25-2001
DEPARTED 05-06-2020

1032 JOSEPH DOHERTY PER/LM
INITIATED 10/28/1974
DEPARTED 05/10/2020

#2385 LEONARD CAPLAN
INITIATED 02/22/2016
DEPARTED 05/15/2020

#178 WALTER GANCARZ
PER/CHARTER LM
INITIATED 05/28/1961
DEPARTED 05/20/2020

#1521 DONALD G TOZZO LM
INITIATED 03/14/1983
DEPARTED 05/20/2020

*An Elk is
Never Forgotten*

Comfort

Our thought and prayers are with **Rev. Owen Sanderson** who is mourning the loss of his wife, our dear Elk Friend, **Lois**. Our deepest sympathy and condolences to **Don Tozzo, Jr., Elaine Perkins Tozzo, Eileen Tozzo, Nancy Tozzo** and the entire Tozzo family who mourn the loss of **Don Tozzo, Sr.** We're expressing our deepest sympathy and thinking of the families of **Tom Kosky, Leonard Caplan, Joe Doherty, and Walter Gancarz** who have recently passed.

TIP of the ANTLERS...



To our many volunteers who stepped up to work on the upper hall and downstairs to get us open on 6-17-2020. We cleaned chairs downstairs and upstairs, replaced ceiling tiles, continued painting, cleaning of the kitchen, bar, bathrooms, stripping and waxing floors, **Ada Ochoa, Dave Delgrego, Tom Paulson, Tony Denicola, Kathy Kelsey, Jenn Caputo, Carl Pettinella, Tammy Shea, Lee Campo, Phil Wilson, Bob Breiko,** (your name could be here), **Andy Caporassi, Peter Freiler, Carl Rennie, Ray Bullard and Bob Bankowski** and a special thanks to **Tanya Hill** for sending our weekly and monthly emails. Thanks to our VOLUNTEER bartenders who offer their time and talents for our enjoyment. Please remember to be generous in your gratuities in appreciation for their efforts. Also, welcome to **Whitney Batson**, our newest member/volunteer. Come visit Whitney on Thursday nights! **All proving that a team effort will guarantee our success!**

Hamden Elks Lodge #2224 re-opened on June 17. We adhere to current guidelines and recommendations as set by the Phase 2 business re-opening policy of the State of CT.

- Capacity will be limited to 50 persons in the downstairs members area.
- Social distancing guidelines will be observed.
- Members must bring and wear masks when required.
- Food must be ordered in order to be served beverages. A limited food menu will be available.
- Staff will be required to wear masks and gloves at all times.
- Lodge staff will sanitize the facility on an ongoing basis consistent with State Guidelines.
- Pool table and game use is prohibited at this time.

Our hours for now will be 4pm-closing WED/THURS/FRI. 2pm-closing SAT.

We appreciate the members co-operation and understanding during this period and hope to resume normal operations as soon as State Guidelines allow.

Please spread the word about our reopening. Remember, your dues must be current in order to be admitted to the Members club rooms. Hope to see you soon.

We are planning to have a "Grand Re-Opening" celebration and get-together as soon as more restrictions are lifted. Watch for further announcements.

Elk of the Month

This member has jumped in to help with our face lifting projects around the Lodge. He has come down most Saturdays and when available, to prep, clean, paint and assist where needed. He has given us a much needed helping hand. **The April Elk of the month is DAVE DELGREGO.**

This longtime member has spent several days helping with much needed outdoor clean up around the Lodge. He cleaned a mountain of debris from fallen tree limbs, and piles of leaves accumulated during the fall and winter. He continues to be the Lodge Chair for ENF and collects and redeems bottles and cans that are cashed in to help our Lodge charities. His dedication to the Lodge over the years is an example for all of us. **The Elk of the Month for MAY is PHIL WILSON PDD/PSP.**

This member has worked above and beyond, behind the scenes, to attend to our bookkeeping and financial record keeping. As Treasurer, he has spent countless hours getting the Lodge into compliance with the new Financial Reporting System as mandated by the Grand Lodge. Through his efforts, he has managed to meet every deadline that has been set during this transition period. Many late hours have been spent in the office working on this massive conversion. We are grateful for his investment of time and energy on behalf of the Lodge. **The Elk of the Month for June is JOHN ZALESKI.**

Deadline for all items in the **Elks August News** is **July 15**.
Send your submissions to
joneilgraphics@yahoo.com .



HELP KEEP ME FILLED!

Donations of non-perishable food items, hotel-sized toiletries, needed to help the less fortunate. Bins are located in the Lounge.

Elks Care Elks Share