Members All,

It is hard to believe another Lodge year is coming to an end. Our pace is not slowing down a bit with many events and activities planned in March. Please check the calendar of events for the schedule and details.

In addition to our Wednesday night dinners, we have a Friday Nite Social on the 13th, Karaoke on the 14th, St. Patrick's Celebrations on the 17th and 18th, and we are honoring our Elk and Officer of the Year on the 29th!

Please plan on attending these events which depend on member participation. As always, guests are welcome to all our social activities. Your support and attendance is vital for the financial well being of our Lodge. Come down, have a great time with friends and while you're here, make some new friends!

At the start of the year, I urged members to make a commitment of support for the Lodge to meet the many challenges expected during the upcoming year. Our primary issue was to address the financial condition of the Lodge and another was to grow the membership of the Lodge.

I am proud to say, at year's end, we have made many inroads in improving our financial health and we are turning the corner reversing losses we have suffered in recent years.

This year we brought 35 new members into our Lodge family. It has been over 20 years since we had last attained those numbers!

Our Trustees and Board of Governors have worked very hard to reduce costs and find ways to increase revenue. Painting, new lighting and other needed general repairs have been made to improve the condition of our Lodge Home with more planned.

We are grateful to the many who have lent their time and volunteered for the many projects undertaken this year. Much thanks is also given to several members who assisted with financial donations to help defray the costs of these projects. Thanks to the 12 Elks of the Month who have gone above and beyond and have brought the meaning of volunteerism to a new level.

I have enjoyed being a part of this turnaround and am proud to have served as Exalted Ruler. Thank you all for your confidence and support.

We have proven as a Lodge that “a team effort will insure our success.”

Fraternally,

Andy Caporossi, pdd, ER

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2020 Scholarship Update  LINDA LANG-BANKOSKI CHAIR

Hamden Lodge #2224 is, again, offering its annual scholarship in honor of Edward J. Connolly, founding member. Awards are open to graduating high school seniors who are the child, grandchild, great grandchild or legal ward of a current member in good standing of Hamden Lodge #2224. The number of scholarship recipients and dollar amounts will be based upon the number of applications received, reviewed and approved. Applications are available at the Elks Lodge 175 School St., or by contacting Linda Lang-Bankowski at linda@treb.co. Completed applications must be received by April 30, 2020 in order to be eligible. Recipients will be honored at the annual awards dinner in May.

Visit Hamden’s Lodge pages at www.ctelks.org • Hall Rentals: 203-645-7998
Installation of Officers and Elk Officer of the Year
SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH
1:00 Installation of Officers Dinner and Awards Ceremony to follow ($15 per person, tickets in advance)
Honoring

Robert Bretko, PER
Elk of the Year, and

Robert Bakowski
Officer of the Year
Details on pages 2 and 3.

Comfort
BY LEADING KNIGHT
ANTHONY DELGREGO

Our thought and prayers are with Peter Torello as he recovers at home after his hospital stay. We're thinking of Bob Bretko as he recovers from recent illness. If you have any news on the health and well being of any member of our Lodge family, please contact me at (203) 907-9127 or tonyd0453@yahoo.com.

Donations for the CT Children's Medical Center are always welcome and can be placed in the collection jar located in the Lounge.

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.

Hamden Lodge 2020 Elk and Officer of the Year
Congratulations to Elk of the Year Bob Bretko and Officer of the Year Bob Bankowski. Join us as we honor these individuals and congratulate our incoming Slate of Officers. They will be honored on Sunday, March 29 at our Lodge Recognition Event which will be held in conjunction with our Installation of Officers in the Upper Hall. See details in “Upcoming Events” and display ad on pages 2 and 3.

Elk of the Year Robert Bretko has been a Lodge member for nearly forty years and is a Life Member. He has been a visible force at the Lodge offering much knowledge and support as a Past Exalted Ruler. He served our Lodge as a Chair Officer from 1984-1988 then served as Exalted Ruler. Bob’s wife, Bonnie had been a member of our Lodge’s Emblem Club for many years prior to it’s dissolution; as a result, both have actively participated in both Lodge and Emblem dinners, committees and events too numerous to list. He currently serves as a Lodge Trustee. He is most happy working behind the scenes for the good of the Lodge. As a Trustee, Bob has taken on projects he sees a need for or assists with others being done. He has recently taken on a thorough cleaning of the kitchen, lower lodge floor stripping and refinishing as well as working with others preparing and painting the lower lodge. It is not uncommon to arrive at the lodge at odd hours and see Bob’s car in the parking lot and Bob inside. Bob has and continues to be a great asset to your lodge. Bob has been active within our community as well. He was a member of the Governor’s Foot Guard and formerly part of Hamden’s Democratic Town Committee. He was employed for many years as a Facilities Manager at the Hamden YMCA. He is a life-long Hamden resident. He and his wife Bonnie have two children and four grand children. Their son Dennis and his wife Kristie have two children: Ty and Brady. Their daughter Karrie is mom to Cameron and Linsey. Bob thoroughly enjoys time with the grandkids, particularly attending their baseball and basketball games. He enjoys gardening and take s great joy in caring for his very well manicured lawn!

Officer of the Year Robert Bankowski Elk of the Year Bob Bankowski has been a member of the Elks for over thirty years. He has worked tirelessly and volunteered for numerous hours when needed at the Hamden Lodge accomplishing much important maintenance and repairs. He has generously donated much needed material and items to benefit the Lodge as well as our community over the years. Bob has been a remodeler, property manager and real estate agent for many of his years in the Hamden community. During this time he has been honored as Homebuilders Association of New Haven County Builder of the Year and Connecticut Homebuilders Association Remodeler of the Year in 2001. He is past president of the Homebuilders Association of New Haven County and also served on the board of directors of both organizations for many years. He was also one of the first and longtime volunteer members of the Town of Hamden Office of Emergency Management and could often be found at disaster scenes providing rehab to firefighters and comfort to victims. He has volunteered for Americares Homefront Day and has donated supplies to Habitat for Humanity of New Haven. Bob has served our Lodge well during this past year as a Trustee. His energy is contagious and evident as you look around the Lodge and see the much needed and long overdue improvements that have been under way since his appointment as a Trustee. Bob has a son and daughter and resides in North Haven with his wife Linda. He enjoys spending time with his wife Linda, his three grandchildren, gardening and doing projects around the house.

MESSAGE FROM THE Secretary JENNIFER CAPUTO

The following members have not paid dues for the 2019-2020 Lodge year and per statute will be removed from membership roster on 3/31/2020: 1796, 1909, 1939, 2234, 2252, 2278, 2283, 2321, 2338, 2354, 2356, 2374, 2383, 2386, 2387, 2417, 2421, 2439. Dues payments will still be accepted and if there are any circumstances or hardship issues, please contact Lodge Secretary Jenn.jenncap101@gmail.com or jenncap7333@hotmail.com. Your Lodge Family values your continued support and membership.

The Elks NEWS Hamden Lodge #2224 Serving Hamden and North Haven since 1961
### Lodge Meetings: March 9th & 23rd

#### Upcoming Events

- **Happy Birthday** to our members with **March Birthdays**: Drop in for your free birthday beverage “on the house.”
- **Budget Workshops** March 3, 17 & 31: 6:30pm. Watch the Wednesday emails for updates.
- **Dues-A-Palooza Saturday, March 7**: Come pay your 2020-21 dues, get it processed that afternoon, and enjoy a hot dog and beer or soda on the Lodge! Looking forward to seeing you there!! 2 – 5:00pm. Be advised the Grand Lodge assessment has increased by $1 this year. Therefore, Regular Members Dues will be $100 and Life Member Dues $46.
- **Lodge Meeting Monday, March 9**: 7:30pm.
- **Friday Night Social March “Lucky” 13**: Wings! Served with slaw, from 6 to 8:00pm. Choose from, buffalo, teriyaki, and sweet & sour. 6 wings for $6.
- **Karaoke Is Back! Saturday, March 14**: With DJ “Uncle Bob.” 7 – 10:00pm. Lots of fun! Members, your Guests (don’t forget to sign in) are always welcome! Bring your favorite snacks to share.
- **Trustee Meeting Monday March 16**: 6:30pm.
- **Saint Patrick’s Day Celebration Tuesday, March 17**: Lodge opens at noon. Corned beef sandwiches served between noon-7:00pm. Our famous corned beef sandwiches also served from 4-7:00 on Wednesday, March 18 for our Wednesday Night Dinner. Watch for details.
- **Lodge Meeting Monday, March 23**: 7:30pm.
- **Country Line Dancing Friday, March 27**: Held the last Friday night of the month at 7pm. See Tanya Hill for details or to enjoy in the fun!
- **Elk and Officer of the Year and Installation of 2020-21 Officers Sunday, March 29**: 1:00pm. Join us as we honor our newly installed Officers and honor Bob Bretko PER as Elk of the Year and Bob Bankowski, Past Elk of the Year, as Officer of the Year. Installation of Officers at 1:00pm, Dinner and Awards Presentation to follow. $15 per person. Tickets must be paid in advance. Call Lodge 203-248-2224 or Andy Caporossi 203-836-4302. Dinner Menu: To Be Announced.
- **Children’s Easter Egg Hunt Saturday April 4**: 1:00 to 3:00pm. Bring your children and grandchildren! Crafts and refreshments, fun for all. RSVP is a must to Jennifer Caputo by 3/25.
- **Line Dancing**: 7:00pm. For all who attended our Friday Nite Social: Special thanks to Ray Bullard for making his incredible French Onion Soup. To Tony DiNicola for Donation of pantry supplies. To Ray Bullard for Donation of kitchen supplies and office supplies. To Dave DelGrege, Tony DiNicola, Lee Campo, Bob Bankowski, Bob Bretko and Norm Kaminski for on going Painting, Repairs and Clean up. To all who brought food and snacks to our Superbowl Party. It was a feast and good time had by all! To Bob Bretko for kitchen deep Cleaning and Lodge Floor Refinishing. To Brian & Karen Forsyth, and Lee & Lynn Campo for their Generous Donations to keep these things moving along. To Tony Delicola and Lee Campo for the donation of new Fans for the bar. To Kathy Kelcey for putting the bar back together and cleaning it. To Josephine O’Neill for all her hard work on our newsletter. All proving that a team effort will guarantee our success!
PERSONAL PIZZA only $8.00. Pepperoni, Sausage, Mozzarella, White with Spinach or Broccoli available daily at the bar. Let us know what other bar food you’d like to see.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for lodge cleanup and maintenance. Meeting weekly. HELP WITH WHAT YOU CAN, WHEN YOU CAN. All skills needed. Painting, repairs, cleanup. Also needed is help with Public relations, website, social media, Newsletter, kitchen, dinners and Membership. Call, email or text Bob Bankowski with your information or for information. Bob@quinnie.com or 203-619-4376.

BRING A FRIEND AND HAVE DINNER OR A DRINK. Weekly meals served every Wednesday. See what our kitchen volunteers have cooked up this week!! Be part of the excitement. Meet new friends. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Interested in being one of our VOLUNTEER BAR-TENDERS? If so, please reach out to Mike Romano Mikeroma@sbcglobal.net or call him at 203-257-3912 for details.

DINNER RESERVATIONS: Reserve your place for Wednesday or special dinners — call (203) 248-2224 and reserve with the bartender or email ER Andy at andycape@gmail.com. Make every effort to make your reservation no later than the Sunday before, to ensure we prepare enough food. There’s always room for a few walk-ins.

VOLUNTEER FOR NEWSLETTER NEEDED: Please contact Josephine at joneilgraphics@yahoo.com to handle layout and editing of our Lodge newsletter.

RAISE FUNDS FOR ENF, WHILE YOU RECYCLE! Bring your empty cans and bottles for recycling, those nickels go to the Elks National Foundation! Call Phil Wilson with any questions.

HELP US UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO: Times have changed, and so have your phone numbers, land-lines and email addresses! Please inform us of any changes to your mailing address, email or phone numbers to update our CLMS member database. Please email Jennifer at jenncap7333@hotmail.com. Thanks!

STAMP DONATIONS HELP TO SAVE ON MAILING COST OF YOUR LODGE NEWSLETTER: Please consider donating a book or two of patriotic (forever flag) stamps for upcoming newsletters and important member mailings. Your donation is much appreciated. Drop your donation with a note in the office mail box.

HELP US RETAIN MEMBERS: We need your help! Consider contacting ER Andy Caporossi at 203-836-4302 to join the Lapsation Committee to call and encourage lapsed members to remit and remain as members and experience the joy of being an Elk!

MESSAGE BOARD

ELK OF THE MONTH

This is yet another long time member who has been a tireless worker over the years and has served in several capacities as an officer and been on numerous committees. Her background in graphic arts has been such an asset to the Lodge in preparing the many programs and brochures for so many events over the years. She has been instrumental in working on our Community Awards events each year, been Public Relations chair, worked on several community charities projects, just to name a few. She is a most valuable member producing our Lodge Newsletter for nearly a decade and came out of a brief “retirement” to being editor again this year. Many thanks to our March Elk of the Month – Josephine O’Neil PER.