

THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS



THE FLASH



**ROCHESTER LODGE #24
A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION
ESTABLISHED 1884**

Volume 34 Issue 3

March 2026

****CHARITY ** JUSTICE ** BROTHERLY LOVE ** FIDELITY****

Exalted Ruler's Message



Hello, my fellow Elks! Welcome to April, the start of the new Elk year, and welcome to the first of twelve submissions of the Greg Keenan, E.R. farewell tour. Personally, I am very excited about the upcoming Elk year! We have another great crew on board, and I think our future is looking very good.

Last month we had our corned beef raffle, which also coincided with our second open mic night - or should we call it open Mike night, in honor of our host musician Mike Hohman? If you did not attend, you missed a really fun evening. Mike mixed in a good variety of Irish songs throughout the night and was occasionally joined by the First Lady exhibiting her tambourine skills. A co-worker of mine and a friend of his, both amateur musicians, came by and participated in the evening. They

do not have a lot of experience playing before that many people but they did great job and enjoyed themselves. Once again, the fine people of our lodge represented us very well and made them feel welcome and appreciated. As a result, they are already looking forward to returning for our next event.

Lets talk about Fidelity, the motto of the station of the Exalted Ruler. Fidelity is defined as faithfulness to a person, cause, or belief, demonstrated by continuing loyalty and support. We are very fortunate that we have so many members that are faithful in their continuing loyalty and support of the lodge. I think many of us take for granted how lucky we are to be members of an extremely active lodge: one that is open seven days a week and which opens fairly early in the afternoon compared to other lodges. It is our people who are faithful to their obligation of volunteering time and effort who

keep us going. Recently the First Lady and I were in Florida and we wanted to stop at a local Elks Lodge. We learned that it was only open three days a week, and not until 5 p.m. Unfortunately, this is not an uncommon situation. Please be appreciative of all our volunteers who afford us the privileges of a fully operational Elks Lodge.

Hopefully, by the time this letter is published we will be fully engulfed in a warmer, dryer spring. I was once told that winter is not over until the snow has fallen on the robins at least three times. Well, that certainly held true this year. Happy Spring!

Yours in Elkdom,
Gregory Keenan, ER

“True happiness is not attained through self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose.” -Helen Keller

Elk of the Month

Carol McNelly

Your Effort is Greatly Appreciated!

LODGE NEWS

Chaplain's Corner

Thinking of you...

Jim Kelly
Heather Krenzer

Get well soon...

Eric Fountain

Our sympathy goes out to...

Kathy Mastin, on the passing of her father
Family of Tim Kelly, PSP, on his passing

If you know of a member who is ill, has lost a family member, or is in need of a bit of cheer, please let me know by email at adabaxter53@gmail.com or by phone or text at 585-739-3112

- *Ada Baxter, PER, Chaplain*

Lodge Meetings

House Committee	Monday, April 6	7:00 pm
PER Association	Tuesday, April 7	7:00 pm
Trustees	Tuesday, April 7	7:30 pm
Full Lodge	Wednesday, April 14	7:00 pm
	Wednesday, April 28	7:00 pm

Growing the Herd

Let's Build A Stronger Community Together.



Candidate	Proposed by
Denise Castro of Henrietta	Donna Pratt
Mary Jo Brenner of Rochester	Amanda Pratt
Sandra Restieri of Rochester	John Baron, PER

We have a fun and active lodge, doing a lot of great work for youth, veterans, and community. We're the premier charitable and patriotic organization in the country! You know someone who'd love to join us in fun, fellowship, and community service - they may be waiting for you to ask them to be an Elk! Why not give them an application and propose them for membership?

join.elks.org

Elk of the Month

...is **Carol McNelly!** As many of you know, Carol is quite active in many lodge activities. She has been a kitchen manager, regularly made dinner specials and is always helping at special events. Many members do not realize what goes on behind the scenes. Carol is the driving force in getting the FLASH put together ever month, and has been a great advisor and source of information to me personally.

Thank you, Carol!

- *Greg Keenan, Exalted Ruler*

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING DUES PAYMENT BY CHECK

If you pay your dues with a check, it **MUST** be made out to:

**ROCHESTER LODGE #24
B.P.O.E**

Otherwise, the lodge will be **UNABLE** to cash your check and credit you for your dues.

This is a bank requirement, not a lodge requirement. We appreciate your cooperation in this.

"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team."

—Phil Jackson, American professional basketball executive

LODGE NEWS



1	Mark DeWitt
4	Eugene Nolan
5	Robert Moran
5	Daniel Rautenstrauch
5	Brent Rohrabacher
6	Brian Bischooping
7	John Pschierer
9	Calvin Elder
11	Emma Jean Leccese-Hurlburt
12	Kathleen Roth
13	Gary Holler
15	Scott Kase
16	Al Favro
16	Kevin Fogerty
17	Gary Perkins
17	Bradley Weaver
18	Kenneth Ochs
18	Randy Slifer
20	Bryant Dunham
20	Paul Lippa
20	Timothy McCarthy
22	Robert Cripps
22	Barbara Patzig
24	Guye Smith
25	Joshua Hunt



VETERANS NEWS

for info or to volunteer contact:
 Lodge Veterans Chair: Ray Hawkins
ahawkins@frontier.com

SUMMER'S COMING! The **Lifetime Liberty Pass** allows eligible New York State veterans or Gold Star Parents, Spouses, and Children discounted use of state parks, historic sites, and recreational facilities operated by the NY State Parks and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). And they never expire! Benefits include free vehicle entry to most state-operated parks and DEC-operated day-use areas, as well as numerous state-operated boat launch sites, historic sites, arboretums, and park preserves; free greens fees at state-operated golf courses; free swimming pool entrance at State Park pools; and discounted camping and cabin rentals at most State Park and DEC campgrounds. To find out more, including how to get your pass, go to: <https://parks.ny.gov/visit/passes/lifetime-liberty-pass>

2026-2027 DUES ARE DUE BY APRIL 1
Regular Dues \$106.00 • Life Members \$73.50

On **TUESDAY, APRIL 1**, the card reader will be updated at both entrances to the Lodge. In order to gain entry into the Lodge, you must have paid your dues for the **2026-2027 Elks Year**. To have service in the lounge, you will need your new membership card. Dues can be mailed or given to the bartender, who will secure them in the safe.



APRIL INITIATION ANNIVERSARIES

Our sincere appreciation goes out to the following members for their years of membership in, and service to, our Order. Congratulations!

	Years as an Elk	Initiation Date
Cynthia Ayotte	5	April 28, 2021
Paul Lippa	5	April 28, 2021
Todd Mayer	5	April 28, 2021
Terry Miller	5	April 28, 2021
Ronald Johnston	10	April 27, 2016
Michael Hohman	15	April 27, 2011
David Donnelly	15	April 27, 2011
John Sullivan	20	April 26, 2006
Raymond Wagner	20	April 26, 2006
Raymond Hawkins	35	April 10, 1991
Edward Keller	35	April 10, 1991

LODGE NEWS



Thanks to all who participated!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!

The winners in the grand finale drawing were:

\$500 - June Keenan and Gary Peterson

\$400 - Kevin Conlin and John Zamiara

\$300 - Andrew Babish, Lynne Erne, and Nancy White

\$200 - Joe Buonaccor, Phil Cardinal, and Scott Holvaquist

\$100 - Debbie Barton, Annette Drumm, Ray Hawkins, Rachael Keenan, Mike Menard, Bob Shaff, Judy Strouth

\$50 - Bob Brodman, John Lambe

CONGRATULATIONS! On Saturday, March 28, our lodge officers for the next Elk year were installed in their positions. We thank you all for your service to the Lodge, and know that all our members will give you their support for a very successful year!

OFFICERS:

- Exalted Ruler - Greg Keenan
- Esteemed Leading Knight - Ken Maul, PDDGER
- Esteemed Loyal Knight - Trish Hohman
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight - Kern Haynes
- Secretary - Brett Elliott, PER
- Treasurer - Erin Rich
- Trustees:

- 1 year - Tim McNelly, PER
- 2 year - Bob Brodman
- 3 year - Don Silvernail
- 4 year - Jim Alfieri
- 5 year - John Silvernail

APPOINTMENTS:

- Esquire - George Wambold, PER
- Tiler - Stephen Taney
- Inner Guard - Steve Webel, PER
- Chaplain - Ada Baxter, PER
- Lounge Managers - Sue Barber Brock & Beth Drumm
- Kitchen & Banquet Manager - Al Rich



From all of us at Lodge #24, thank you to our outgoing and incoming elected and appointed officers, House Committee members, and lounge/kitchen managers.

"You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."

- Kahlil Gibran

GREG KEENAN, ER HOMECOMING PARTY AND ANNUAL LODGE AWARDS
SATURDAY, APRIL 18
5 00 PM COCKTAILS 6 00 PM DINNER
7 00 PM PRESENTATIONS AWARDS
FIESTA

Elks Care WE'RE ELKS: IT'S WHAT WE DO Elks Share

JOIN LODGE #24 IN THE TOWN OF HENRIETTA MEMORIAL DAY PARADE!



**Sunday, May 17
Step off 1:00 pm**



We'll have the Elks Drug Awareness Trailer and candy to toss to the kids along the route! Ride the truck or walk, let's have a good turnout for our community!

The Elks National Drug Awareness Program strives to teach children and parents about the dangers of illegal drug use and prevent the abuse of legalized and prescription drugs. As the largest volunteer drug awareness program in the United States, the program relies on volunteers to promote a drug-free lifestyle.



A heartfelt thanks to all of you who gave up your afternoons and your Wednesday evenings, who left

work early, and who rushed to the Lodge as soon as life/work allowed, to cover the door to help our Wednesday "fundraiser" over the last few years. You are appreciated more than you know.

Special thanks to **Nancy Parmeter**, my intrepid "sous-chef"; to **Kait Poweski**, who worked like a dynamo to get the meals out of the kitchen; and to **Cathy Sharpe**, who gave me a break once a month - and whenever I needed it. Thanks also to **Sheri Adam, Mike Brodzinski, Keith Eggleston, Mike Poweski, Marie Scott, and Barb Warney** for their help in the kitchen. - **Carol McNelly**

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." —Elizabeth Andrew, American author



Spring is here at last, and we always need volunteers for mulching, planting, weeding, and watering. If you can find an hour or two, the club would appreciate it!

A great looking yard is important to attracting members and representing our lodge to the community. There'll be a signup sheet at the lodge. And keep an eye out for the date for our annual Spring Cleanup!

- Pennie Alfieri, Garden Club Chair



**Save the Date!
Lodge #24 Annual
Elks Against Cancer**

Fundraiser & Chicken BBQ

to benefit Cancer Support Community Rochester (formerly Gilda's Club)

Sunday, July 26, 1:00-5:00 pm



FOOD, FRIENDS, & FUN!

KITCHEN NEWS

As your new kitchen manager, I'd like start by thanking Carol McNelly, Steve Webel, and Cathy Sharpe for the work they have done in the past as kitchen managers. I would especially like to thank Cathy for showing me the ropes. She had a ton of patience while answering my pages and pages of questions.

We're going to try taking the kitchen in a somewhat different direction. Some things will remain the same, but there will be a few changes. As part of this, we're eliminating Blue Plate Wednesdays and the Friday curbside service to the public. Members can order takeout, of course, but we encourage you to come in, place your order, and socialize while you wait for their meal. Even better, have dinner in the lodge and catch up with folks. As the old commercial used to say, "membership has its privileges"!

When I started as a member, the lodge was always full on Friday nights, with tables often turning over for a second set of diners. I'd love to bring that back for our lodge. We realize that nobody, including me, wants to go to the lodge every week for dinner, so we're going to start offering a la carte desserts on Fridays! If you don't join us for dinner (but we wish you would), come in for dessert and an after-dinner drink!

We're going to bring back some things that have worked well in the past, and we have a few new ideas, too. Also, keep your eye on the Facebook page and weekly email blasts to find out if there is a pop-up meal or if something is added at the last minute. There is a plan to tweak the menu a tad and your input is strongly encouraged. We can't do it all, but we'll sure try! Hey, long time members...what do you remember that you would like to return? Newer members, what would bring you in for dinner?

Thanks to all our VOLUNTEER cooks, waitstaff, and prep people! We can always use more to help lighten the load. We're not asking for every week, but as much time you are willing and able to donate would be greatly appreciated. If need be, I'm glad to train at no extra charge...!

Lastly, as the kitchen evolves, we need your input to keep us strong. What have we done right, and what tasted great? Is there a weakness we can work on? Honest feedback, positive or negative, will help to make our kitchen a restaurant. That feedback needs to come to me, NOT rumored at the bar. The support of our members is very important.

Looking forward to feeding you soon,
- Al Rich, Kitchen & Banquet Manager

APRIL SERVINGS FROM THE KITCHEN

- **Friday, April 3 Special** - Shrimp or Haddock Oscar
- **Friday, April 10 Special** - Simon & Garfunkel Chicken
- **Friday, April 17 Special** - Pork Medallions with Razz Sauce
- **Friday, April 24 Special** - Chicken French

In addition, we're adding new special kitchen events every month! Watch the FLASH for dates & details!

WEEKLY THURSDAY NIGHT LOUNGE MENU 6-8 PM
Burgers, Hots, Grilled or Fried Chicken Sandwich, Baskets, and WINGS!!

FOOD, FRIENDS, & FUN!

LOUNGE NEWS

We can't believe it's April! Where has the time gone? Come down to the lodge and enjoy some time and a cold cocktail! We are trying a few new things: we have GoodBoy Vodka Ice Tea and Lemonade cans. We also have Michelob Ultra on tap. Let us know what you think! Don't forget, we have the Weekly running, so stop in and sign the book!

Also, starting in April we will be staying open until 10:00 on meeting nights and Friday nights! Many thanks to our Wednesday and Friday bartenders.

- Your lounge managers for another year, Sue Barber-Brock and Beth Drumm

NEW EXTENDED LOUNGE HOURS!
Starting April 1
Every lodge meeting Wednesday (closed during meeting)
Every Friday! Come for dinner or stop in for dessert!



Pancake Sunday!
April 12, 9-11 am
Cooked-to-order pancakes
with bacon or sausage!



FRENCH BREAD PIZZA
Monday, April 6
5:00-7:00 pm
Cheese, pepperoni,
or Italian sausage



Spaghetti Night
Wednesday, April 15
5:30-7:30 pm
Angel Hair or Penne with
Italian sausage or
homemade meatballs
Meatball or Sausage Sub
Sandwich



BUNS & BEVERAGES
TUESDAY, APRIL 28
5-7 PM
Get a burger or hot dog and a
domestic beer or wine for one
great price! Fries, tots, or onion
rings extra

FOOD, FRIENDS, & FUN!

\$2 PER WEEK

WEEKLY PRIZE DRAW!

DRAWING EVERY FRIDAY

**Stop into the lodge and sign the book
(one entry per week - starts over each Saturday)**

If your number is drawn and you're present: YOU WIN THE POT! (Up to \$500)

If your number is drawn and you aren't present: You win 1/2 of the pot

If your number is drawn and you didn't sign the book that week: You get a FREE entry for the following week



**OPEN MIC
OPEN MIC
OPEN MIC**

Saturday, April 11
6:00 pm
Hosted by Mike Hohman



CINCO DE MAYO!

**TUESDAY, MAY 5
5:00 - 7:00 PM
WATCH FOR DETAILS!**



AND THE WINNER IS....
Anita Hawkins! Anita guessed that Mike & crew cooked & served 3,227 chicken wings during football season. The actual number was 3,166 individual wings! prize for the closest guess was a \$75 gift certificate to Avvino restaurant on Monroe Avenue. Congratulations, Anita!

Thanks to **Mike Poweski, John Zamiara and Katie & Jim Heltzel** for giving up their Monday nights to draw folks into the lodge.



Join the New York Elks For a Day at Yankee Stadium



New York Yankees  **Toronto Blue Jays**

All tickets purchased from scanning QR code or clicking link below will receive a ticket to the game, a Limited Edition Yankees x NY Elks USA Hat, and a \$5 donation to the NYS Elks Major Project fund.
All seating is together in section 205.

<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Newyork2276>

FOOD, FRIENDS, & FUN!

CHILI CON CORNHOLE 2026! Our 3rd annual Cornhole Tournament and Chili Cookoff were a success again! I would like to thank all who pitched in to help. especially **Brian Antonelli, Matt Barber, Sue Barber-Brock, Bonnie Belknap, Liz Cardinal, Trish and Mike Hohman, and Carl Tudor.**

Our Cornhole winners were: 3rd place, **Paul Lippa & Steve Taney**; 2nd place, **Liz Cardinal and Heather Hinkley**; and taking the Grand Prize in 1st place were **Phil Cardinal & Brian Antonelli.**

Bonnie Belknap won the Chili Cookoff, **Mike Hohman** and **Laurie Antonelli** tied for 2nd place, and 3rd place went to **Jim Alfieri.**

Thank you to ALL that came out and participated or came to taste the chilis and cheer on the competitors.

Next year. we're going to change it up and pair the Cornhole Tournament with a **CROCKPOT CHALLENGE** (Anything Goes)! So, start thinking now about participating with your best crock pot creation for next year!

- Jim Alfieri, Event Chair



Brian Antonelli & Phil Cardinal



Liz Cardinal & Heather Hinkley



Steve Taney (not pictured: Paul Lippa)



Trish Hohman, Laurie Antonelli, Mike Hohman, Sue Barber-Brock & Bonnie Belknap

THERE WERE SHENANIGANS...

We had a great turnout for the Corned Beef Raffle and Open Mic night! Thanks to everyone who came out to support our fundraiser, join the musicians, and enjoy the 'craic'!



THE SPORTS SECTION

SHUFFLEBOARD
Mini-Tournaments
Monday, April 13
Tuesday, April 28
Starting at 6 pm
 All welcome! No experience needed!
Teams formed from those present



Only \$1 to enter!

Mixed Doubles
HORSESHOE
LEAGUE



Thursdays, 6 pm
May 14-August 27

\$30 for 15 weeks of fun for guys & gals
 No partner needed - teams change weekly!
Sign up at the Lodge by May 7



ELKS AT
ESL BALLPARK
RED WINGS GAME
AND PICNIC
Sunday, May 31













The name of the field may have changed but it's the same great experience! Enjoy a cold beer or have some Dippin' Dots and watch our hometown team take on the Met's farm team!

What's a better way to start off summer (THIS IS THE WEEKEND AFTER MEMORIAL DAY) than a ballgame and a picnic? Join us for our annual summer get together. Invite your friends, family, and fellow Elks for an enjoyable day at ESL Ballpark to watch the

Rochester Red Wings vs. Syracuse Mets
Game at 1:05

Then come back to the lodge for an old-fashioned picnic with a hot dog or burger, salads, and goodies. If you can't make the game, join us back at the lodge for the picnic. Al and Erin will take care of the food and getting the tickets. You just have to get to and from the game, and have fun back at the lodge. Remember, ESL has gone cashless so you need a card for parking, concessions, etc. The sign-up sheet will be up on the door at the lodge on April 18. Tickets available on a First Paid - First Served basis. We sold out last year so get your money in early! **DO NOT SIGN UP WITHOUT PAYING OR YOUR NAME WILL BE REMOVED.** You can leave the money in an envelope on the kitchen door with Al Rich written on it. **Last day to sign up is May 17.** For more details see Al or Erin Rich.

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
LOUNGE HOURS: Monday-Thursday 2:00 - 9:00 PM Friday 2:00 - 10:00 PM Saturday 2:00 - 6:00 PM Sunday 12:00 - 6:00 PM		THURSDAY LOUNGE MENU 6:00 - 8:00 PM		1 NEW DOOR CARDS TAKE EFFECT PAY YOUR DUES!	2 Beanbag League 6pm Queen of Hearts 7:30 Lounge Menu 6-8 pm	3 Dinner Service 5:30-7:30 pm Special: Shrimp or Haddock Oscar Weekly Drawing 7 pm	4
5 	6 House Committee Meeting 7 pm French Bread Pizzas 5-7 pm 	7 PER Mtg 7:00 pm Trustee Mtg 7:30 pm	8 Lodge Meeting 7:00 pm Lounge open till 10 pm 	9 Beanbag League 6pm Queen of Hearts 7:30 Lounge Menu 6-8 pm	10 Dinner Service 5:30-7:30 pm Special: Simon & Garfunkel Chicken Weekly Drawing 7 pm	11 Open Mic with Mike 6 pm 	
12 Pancake Sunday 9 - 11 AM 	13 Shuffleboard 6 pm 	14	15 Spaghetti Night 5-7 pm 	16 Beanbag League 6pm Queen of Hearts 7:30 Lounge Menu 6-8 pm	17 Dinner Service 5:30-7:30 pm Special: Pork Medallions with Razz sauce Weekly Drawing 7 pm	18 Greg Keenan, ER Homecoming Party & Annual Awards	
19	20	21	22 Lodge Meeting 7:00 pm Lounge open till 10 pm 	23 Beanbag League 6pm Queen of Hearts 7:30 Lounge Menu 6-8 pm	24 Dinner Service 5:30-7:30 pm Special: Chicken French Weekly Drawing 7 pm	25	
26	27	28  Buns & Brews 5-7 pm Shuffleboard 6 pm 	29	30 Beanbag League 6pm Queen of Hearts 7:30 Lounge Menu 6-8 pm	FRIDAY DINNER SERVICE 5:30 - 7:30 pm Lounge open till 10 pm		

LODGE OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

WHO TO CONTACT TO VOLUNTEER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

Kitchen & Banquets/Rentals: Al Rich kitchenelks24@gmail.com

Bar/Lounge: Sue Barber Brock sbarber1022@gmail.com, Beth Drumm 51bdrumm51@gmail.com

Breakfast with Santa, Breakfast with the Easter Bunny: Cathy Sharpe csharp61959@gmail.com

Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot: Kern Haynes kern1haynes@gmail.com

Veterans Programs: Ray Hawkins ahawkins@frontier.com

William Goddard Memorial Golf Tournament: Steve Parmeter sparmeter@rochester.rr.com

William Goddard Memorial Scholarships: George Wambold georgewambold@yahoo.com

Elks Against Cancer: Mike Poweski mpoweski@gmail.com

Dart League, Cornhole League, Horseshoe League: Ray Hawkins ahawkins@frontier.com

Garden Club: Pennie Alfieri pkajfa56@gmail.com

New Activity or Fundraising Ideas: housecommitteechairelks24@gmail.com or any House Committee member

LODGE OFFICERS 2026-2027

EXALTED RULER	GREGORY KEENAN	
LEADING KNIGHT	KEN MAUL, PDDGER	
LOYAL KNIGHT	TRISH HOHMAN	
LECTURING KNIGHT	KERN HAYNES	
SECRETARY	BRETT ELLIOTT, PER	
TREASURER	ERIN RICH	
TRUSTEES	1 YEAR	TIMOTHY MCNELLY, PER
	2 YEAR	ROBERT BRODMAN
	3 YEAR	DON SILVERNAIL
	4 YEAR	JIM ALFIERI
	5 YEAR	JOHN SILVERNAIL

APPOINTMENTS

ESQUIRE	GEORGE H. WAMBOLD, PER
TILER	STEVEN TANEY
INNER GUARD	STEVEN WEBEL, PER
CHAPLAIN	ADA BAXTER, PER
HOUSE COMMITTEE	TBD
LOUNGE MANAGERS	BETH DRUMM, SUE BARBER-BROCK
KITCHEN MANAGER	AL RICH
BANQUET MANAGER	AL RICH

THE FLASH

Editor:
Carol McNelly

Field Photographer:
Linda Fischette

Proofreading:
Ed Baxter PDDGER
Ginger Burgess
Anita Hawkins
Terry Miller
Tim McNelly, PER

Contact / Submissions:
elksflash@gmail.com