



The

SARATOGA-WILTON ELK

A Fraternal Organization

Celebrating our 123rd Year

Vol. 69, No. 12

Saratoga Springs, New York

December 2025

Craft and Vendor Fair

Saturday, December 6, 2025, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Elks Memorial Service

Sunday, December 7, 2025 @ 1:00 pm

A Message from the Exalted Ruler



Dear Members and Friends of Saratoga-Wilton Lodge #161,

Happy December, Everyone. Let the holiday festivities commence. Our Lodge has been decorated in the colors of the season and Colonial Hall will soon host Santa's visit with a myriad of little children. The Children's Christmas Party will be on December 14th, from 2-4:30pm and is open to members' children and grandchildren ages 1-12. Please be sure to sign them up in the lounge by December 5th so Santa can make his list and check it twice.

December activities will also include our Annual Craft Fair and our Lodge Hoop Shoot, both of which will take place on December 6th. Our Elks Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, December 7th at 1pm. It is a beautiful ceremony, and I encourage all who are able to come and pay your respects to the members we've lost in the past twelve months.

We only have one Lodge meeting in December. It will be on Tuesday, December 16th and will include a Ritual of Initiation. District Deputy Jason Lloyd and State Vice President Jill Lloyd will be in attendance.

Those of you reading this newsletter online, please be sure to scroll to the bottom of this page and click the **DOWNLOAD** button so you can read the rest of the newsletter. There's a lot going on in our lodge and if you don't click **DOWNLOAD**, you're missing it.

May the blessings of the holiday season be upon each of you. Merry Christmas.

Fraternally,


Kathy Jackson, Exalter Ruler

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SARATOGA-WILTON ELKS
A Fraternal Organization

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

SARATOGA-WILTON LODGE B.P.O.E. NO.161
A Fraternal Organization

P.O. Box 3111 Phone: 518-584-2585
 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 swelks161@yahoo.com

Chartered August 14, 1902

Kathy Jackson, PER.....Exalted Ruler
 Patricia Gros..... Esteemed Leading Knight
 Miranda Loachamin.....Esteemed Loyal Knight
 Vacant.....Esteemed Lecturing Knight
 Barbara Ash..... Secretary
 Robert D. Lounsbury, PER..... Treasurer
 John Shaw..... Trustee 1 Year
 Thomas J. Curley, PDDGER..... Trustee 2 Year
 Michael D. Cummings, PDDGER..... Trustee 3 Year
 Geraldine Conboy, PER..... Trustee 4 Year
 Stephen Dorsey, PDDGER..... Trustee 5 Year
 Matthew J. Dorsey ESQ.....Justice of Subordinate Forum
 Susan Waghorn, PER..... Esquire
 Holly Drew..... Chaplain
 Marge Leabourne..... Inner Guard
 Gerard Ketcham..... Tiler
 John Keene..... Organist
 Jean Spencer-Lane..... Soloist

The Saratoga-Wilton Elks Bulletin is a monthly publication prepared for Saratoga-Wilton Lodge B.P.O.E. No. 161 P.O. Box 3111, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-8005 – A non-profit fraternal organization.

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Doc's Corner

PLANTAR FASCIITIS

Plantar Fasciitis describes ,inflammation of the bottom of the foot and is the most common cause of heel pain.

The Plantar Fascia is a strong fibrous attachment running from the heel, along the undersurface of the foot, to the toes. It stretches like a thick rubber band connecting the foot bones to form the arch on the bottom of the foot.

This type of inflammation is common and affects almost one in ten people at some time in their life.

Symptoms include:

Heel pain, arch pain stiffness, heel swelling and a tight Achille's tendon.

Pain is often worst in the morning and with prolonged exercise. Other causes include prolonged periods of standing (especially on bare feet) , sports, exercising or working on hard surfaces and poor arch support.

Diagnosis is made by history and physical examination by your health care provider. X-Ray may be used to rule out other causes (foreign body, bone fracture).

Treatment usually consists of over-the-counter non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, icing the affected area 10-15 minutes twice daily, supportive shoes, orthotics or shoe inserts, massage and stretching.

Injections may include steroidsultrasound may be used.

Surgery is rarely needed to alleviate this very common inflammatory condition.

Saratoga Shout-outs



Huge thank-yous and warm appreciation to:

- To everyone who donated a basket, helped with ticket sales, or made the trek to Glens Falls Lodge #81 for the Colonial District Basket Raffle on November 1st. A good time was had by all and each participating Lodge earned more than \$1,100 toward their Major Project per capita.
- To Ken Kohl and Marge Coburn for serving breakfast to 4 families staying at the Fisher House.
- To the officers and members who turned out for District Deputy Don Roy's audit on November 8th – especially Lodge Secretary Barb Ash, Accident Prevention Chair John “Doc” Shaw, and Lodge Treasurer Bob Lounsbury, PER. They showed our lodge in a really good light. Great job, All.
- To Americanism Chair Dave Waghorn, PER, for his efforts in pulling together the Flag Retirement ceremony, and to Dave and Susan Waghorn, PER, for bringing more than 400 properly folded flags to Saratoga National Cemetery for proper disposal.
- To everyone who turned out for our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, especially the volunteers who worked in the kitchen while everyone else enjoyed a terrific meal. Thank you Patrick, Laura, Kevin, Roxane, Paul, and Marsha. My apologies to anyone I may have missed.
- To Dom and the entire team that helped with the Veterans Stand down on November 16th. We had 51 vendors, including 6 barbers, 3 therapy dogs, and 2 therapy horses on site and we served more than 160 veterans. The vets had a hot breakfast, a boxed lunch, and access to everything from flu shots to mortgage services, winter boots to home cleaning kits. We more than doubled the size of last year's Stand down and look forward to next year's event.
- To the Elk elves who turned out to decorate our Lodge in its holiday finest. We had 2 Donnas, 2 Kathys, 2 Mikes, plus Steve, Dora Lee, Barb, and Lisa and they did a great job. In case you're counting bodies, two people left before we took the picture.
- To the members of the PER Association for their efforts instituting the 200 Club Raffle. The first drawing was held on November 21st and the winning number (150) belongs to Brian Companion. Congrats, Brian.



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



We only have 19 delinquent members! If your name is still on the list, please try to get your dues to me soon. Signup sheets for the children's Christmas Party are in the lounge so don't forget to sign up the kiddies before the deadline. I am taking reservations for the Sweetheart Dance which falls right on the 14th this time. We will be rocking to Skippy and the Pistons so bring a date, some friends or come alone to join in the fun.

Barb Ash – 518-879-8713 (cell) or
swelks161@yahoo.com



Supporting our community

John (Doc) Shaw has been delivering turkey dinners to seniors for 27 years. Thanks to the Kiwanis Club, 21 seniors from Stonequist and Watkins Apartments got the fixings for full Thanksgiving dinners. Pictured are Sandra (Watkins Tenant Coordinator), one of the tenants, and Doc.



On November 18, 2025, Lodge members met Wellspring Shelter Manager at the Regional Food Bank in Latham to pack and pick up \$410 order. Food and supplies were unloaded, stacked in the Wellspring pantry. Lodge also donated \$1754 from ENF Renewal Grant to purchase cellphones, gas



cards, security bars, CDTA bus passes and cleaning supplies. Linda Ford made a Generous Donation to Wellspring for the Regional Food Bank order resulting in \$4000+ worth of food and supplies for the Wellspring Shelter. THANK YOU LINDA!



Mark Your Calendars

Hoop Shoot

**Saturday, December 6, 2025, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Saratoga Springs Rec Center, 15 Vanderbilt Ave., Saratoga Springs**

Craft and Vendor Fair

Saturday, December 6, 2025, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Elks Memorial Service

Sunday, December 7, 2025 @ 1:00 pm

Children's Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14, 2025, from 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

PER Association Meeting

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 @ 6:00 pm

Hoop Shoot Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, December 17, 2025 @ 7:00 pm

Taking Down Holiday Decorations

Saturday, January 3, 2026 @ 10:00 am

Colonial District Hoop Shoot

**Sunday, January 4, 2026 Registration: 9:30 am, Start: 10:00 am
Christopher Dailey Gym, Gavin Park Recreation Center, 10 Lewis Dr., Wilton**

District Deputy Clinic

**Saturday, January 10, 2026 @ Noon
Greenwich Lodge No. 2223**

PER Night and Dinner

**Nominations for 2026-2027 Officers
Tuesday, February 3, 2026**

Meeting Starts at Special Time of 5:30 pm, With Dinner to Follow

Sweetheart Dance

**Saturday, February 14, 2026
Dancing to Skippy and the Pistons
See Flyer for Details**

Election of 2026-2027 Officers

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 @ 7:00 pm

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Bingo (H)	2	3 Curbside Dinner	4 Cornhole (H) 6-8 PM	5 Pub Night Craft & Vendor Fair Setup (H)	6 Craft & Vendor Fair (H) – Holly Hoop Shoot 11-3 SS Rec Center
7 Elks Memorial Service (H) 1 PM	8 Bingo (H)	9	10 Curbside Dinner	11 Cornhole (H) 6-8 PM Board of Directors Meeting 6 PM	12 Pub Night	13
14 Elks Children’s Christmas Party (H) 2 – 4:30	15 Bingo (H)	16 PER Meeting 6 PM Lodge Meeting 7 PM	17 Curbside Dinner Hoop Shoot Awards 7 PM	18 No-Cornhole Blood Drive	19 Pub Night	20
21	22 Bingo (H)	23	24	25 No-Cornhole Christmas Day Closed	26 Pub Night	27
28	29 Bingo (H)	30	31 New Years Eve			

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 No Cornhole New Years Day Closed	2	3 Take down holiday decorations 10 AM
4	5 Bingo (H)	6 Lodge Meeting 7 PM	7 Curbside Dinner	8 Cornhole (H) 6-8 PM	9 Pub Night	10



December Birthdays

1 Kevin Ramos	7 Michael Conley	18 Christina Mercier	26 Luther Waldron
2 Michael Biss	10 Sharon Chandler	19 Frank Capone	28 Patrick Agostino
2 Karen Flewelling	11 Barbara Hancher	19 Russell Doyle	28 Jeffrey Brown
4 Michael Ligotti	12 Rosetta Pechar- Carpenter	19 Susan Szewczyk	28 Thomas Mitchell, Jr.
5 Ryan Ripper	13 Daniel Bell	21 Kathy Jackson	28 Stephen Somich
5 Jean Spencer-Lane	13 Fil Fina, Jr.	21 Thomas Shea	29 Marty Strack
6 Scott Collingwood	14 Rolland Hoag	23 Joseph Brooks	30 Clifford Howe
6 John Grugan	14 Philip Klein	24 David Levanites	31 Patricia Keefe
7 Donald Britten	16 Gary Fishlock	25 Stephen Matarazzo	31 Edward O’Rourke



Veterans Standdown

Wellspring staff member Brooke had a table at the Veterans Standdown on November 16, 2025, distributing information on services for those impacted by domestic violence, trafficking, elder abuse and teen dating violence. Team pictured are John Paneto, Michelle and Peter LaVenia, Mayor John Safford, PER Gerry Conboy, Veteran guest, Keith Koster and Inner Guard Marge Leabourne.

Memorial Service

TO OUR ABSENT MEMBERS

Charity

Justice

Brotherly Love

Fidelity



B.P.O.E.

Saratoga-Wilton Elks Lodge No. 161

Sunday, December 7, 2025

1:00 p.m.

Alfred N Santos	12/19/2024	Robert W Ritchie, PER	4/28/2025
James M Coyne	1/10/2025	William Pettigrew	5/24/2025
James P Guyatte	2/14/2025	Walter D Jennings Jr	7/18/2025
Judy Borden	2/18/2025	Barbara Broderson	7/26/2025
James Carrigan	3/21/2025	Otis H Groff	9/30/2025
Robert D'Andrea	3/21/2025	Lawrence Ernst	10/25/2025
David T Wallingford	3/25/2025		



Annual Memorial Service

Saratoga-Wilton B.P.O. Elks #161 will conduct their annual memorial service on Sunday, December 7, at 1 p.m. at the lodge. The ceremony will honor thirteen members that have died this past year and is open to the public. All are invited to attend and following the ceremony, a light social will be hosted in the lounge. No reservations are necessary. Further information can be obtained by calling Memorial chairman Mark Phillips at 518-584-7464.

Saratoga-Wilton Elks Lodge #161

Children's Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14TH 2:00-4:30

Ages 1 to 12



Food, Fun, and Gifts

This event is for our member's child or grandchild.

You must sign your child or grandchild up by December 5th

Signup sheets are in the lounge.

SARATOGA-WILTON ELKS LODGE NO. 161
Is Pleased to Sponsor its Annual



BASKETBALL

HOOP SHOOT



Saturday, December 6, 2025
From 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

At the

Saratoga Springs Recreation Center
15 Vanderbilt Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY

Boys and Girls Divisions

For Age Groups 8-9, 10-11, and 12-13

Age Will Be Determined by Child's Age on 4/1/26

Prizes Will Be Awarded For 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place
Winners In All Age Groups in Each Division
Plus, Local Consecutive Shots Trophies

No Pre-Registration Required

Local Winners Advance to District and Possibly
Regional, State and National Finals

Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet in the Lounge or
Contact Hoop Shoot Director Steve Dorsey at
(518) 369-1985 or stephendorsey1@gmail.com

Sweetheart Dance

Saturday, February 14, 2026
Saratoga-Wilton Elks Lodge #161
One Elk Lane
Saratoga Springs, NY



Entrée Choices

- > Prime Rib
- > Baked Salmon
- > Eggplant Parmesan

with herb-roasted potatoes, tossed salad, roll, and vegetable

Cupcake Tower - variety of flavors

\$60.00 per person



Raffle Baskets!

Cocktail Hour 5:30-6:30

Dinner 6:30-8:00

Skippy and the Pistons will be our entertainment for the night.

8:00-11:00



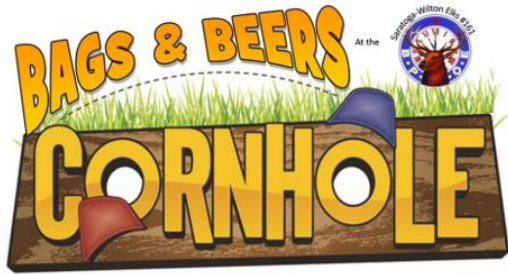
Bring a date or come alone to dance and have a great time!

The event is open to the public. Reservations are on a first come first serve basis. Seating is limited; call today to make your reservation and payment. Deadline for reservations is February 6.

RSVP to Barb Ash 518-879-8713 or bash2@nycap.rr.com with your entrée choice and number of guests. Checks (made payable to Saratoga-Wilton Elks #161) or cash only.

Event or Committee	Day	Date	Time	# of people needed	Details	Contact
Bingo	Monday	Every Monday	5-7pm	Min of 15, optimum 20+	sell tickets, food, etc.	Roxane Major
			7-9pm		Bingo callers, cleanup	No need to sign up in advance. Just show up and ask for Roxane.
Curb-Side Dinner	Wednesday	weekly	4-6pm	2 to 6	Help bag curbside dinners	Volunteers may only be needed once or twice a month. If interested, see Patrick.
Garage Sales	Sunday	1x/month from Sept. thru May, 2x in Nov.	11am - 3pm	2-3, plus people to prepare food	Room set up, food prep, food sales, clean up	Debbie Ozolins deborahozolins@gmail.com
Veterans Services Fisher House Breakfast Team	Weekdays as needed	once or twice a month	7am -10am	2-3 people needed for each visit	Prepare and serve breakfast for patients and their families who are staying at the Fisher House at the Stratton VA Hospital. We'd like 5 or 6 regular volunteers so we can rotate multiple teams.	Ken Kohl 518/596-0498

Committee and event chairs: If you need volunteers or would like to post committee meeting times to this dashboard, contact ER Kathy at kjax.elks161@gmail.com



Come and have a great time!
\$5 per person.
Bring a dish to share!
Fun Fun Fun!

Thursday, December 4th - Cornhole 6 PM

Thursday, December 11th - Cornhole 6 PM

Thursday, December 18th - **No Cornhole (Blood Drive)**

Thursday, December 25th - **No Cornhole (Christmas)**

Thursday, January 1st - **No Cornhole (New Years Day)**

Thursday, January 8th - Cornhole 6 PM

This is for Members, their family, and their guests!



Saratoga-Wilton Elks No. 161
P.O. Box 3111
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

