



The

# SARATOGA-WILTON ELK

A Fraternal Organization

Celebrating our 123<sup>rd</sup> Year

Vol. 69, No. 1

Saratoga Springs, New York

January 2026

**200 Club Monthly Drawing**  
Friday, January 16, 2026 @ 6:30 pm

**PER Night and Dinner**  
Tuesday, February 3, 2026

## A Message from the Exalted Ruler



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

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe 2025 is already over, but a new year means new opportunities to serve our community and our Lodge.

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, you're welcome to join us at the Lodge to take help take down our holiday decorations in preparation for upcoming events. Keep your eyes open for information on the Sweetheart Dance which will be on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

January 4<sup>th</sup>, we'll host the District Hoop Shoot at Gavin Park. See PDD Steve Dorsey if you'd like to help.

Our next District Deputy Clinic will be on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon, at Greenwich Lodge 2223. DD clinics are open to all and highly recommended for those considering becoming officers. The PER Association will interview prospective officers for the 2026-2027 Elk year on Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 6:15pm. Please contact PER Association Chair Steve Dorsey if you'd like to be considered for an elected office. He will ensure you're on the schedule to meet with the PER's.

If you need a positive thought to get you through the cold weeks of winter, remember the first day of Spring is only 80 days out.

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.

Wishing you and yours a happy, healthy New Year.

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 NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS 2026**

When you flip the calendar to January first' you open your heart to new possibilities and potential. Here are a few New Year's resolution ideas to inspire the new YOU.

**Personal Health**  
 Start a 15-minute work-out routine...go vegan one day a week...avoid desserts...limit alcohol to week-ends only. Schedule an annual health check-up

**Evaluate Growth and Career**  
 Update your CV... learn a new skill related to your field of expertise...set boundaries for work/life balance...

**Financial Outlook**  
 Create and follow a monthly budget.....save a specific amount each month for both investment and emergencies...pay off at least one debt this year

**Personal Development**  
 Read one book every month (audio books count)..take a class to learn a new hobby...overcome a personal fear...volunteer for a cause you care about

**Relations**  
 Spend more quality time with family...plan routine date-nights with your partner, and outings with friends...express gratitude daily...reach out to an old friend

**Fun and Whimsical**  
 Try a new recipe once weekly...a classic movie-watch monthly...plan a themed party

**Make The World A Better Place**  
 Donate to a charity...mentor someone in your field of expertise...pick up trash when noticed...donate unused items, clothes, BLOOD

Finally, Attend a live event you've never tried before.....sit and write a letter to your future SELF !

These are Ideas for Consideration DOC

## Saratoga Shout-outs



Huge thank-yous and warm appreciation to:

- To Holly Drew and the incredible team that put together and ran our Annual Holiday Craft Fair. Turnout was strong and more than \$2,000 was raised for the Lodge. Efforts to deliver this event began in early August and resulted in a rousing success on the first Saturday in December. Thank you to those who worked with the vendors, handled set-up, sold raffle tickets, worked the kitchen, acted as food runners, and those who assisted (a voiceless) Holly with all that had to be done.
- To Steve Dorsey, PDD, and the team he assembled to run our Lodge Hoop Shoot. Eighteen Elks and Five non-Elk volunteers ensured a fun and fair competition for 59 youth from our community. We are looking forward to seeing our winners again at the District Shoot at Gavin Park on January 4<sup>th</sup>.
- To Mark Phillips, Jim Ash, Barb Ash, Don Roy, and Mike Cummings for the work they did to help us deliver a beautiful Memorial Day Service to honor the brothers and sisters in Elkdom that we lost in the past year. The service was attended by families and friends of the departed, and many expressed their gratitude for the esteem in which we held their loved ones.
- To Jean Brunelle and her merry band of elves for hosting the Annual Children's Christmas Party. Santa Claus made a personal appearance and brought gifts personally selected for each child in attendance. Fun craft activities and yummy treats added to the festive atmosphere. We appreciate that Jean has Santa on speed dial and that Mike Kanuika was able to assist the jolly, old elf in his appearance.



Hoop Shoot volunteers

## **200 Club Raffle Winner – December 2025**

Congratulations to Barbara Hancher. Barb's number was drawn on December 19<sup>th</sup>, making her the newest winner of our 200 Club Raffle.



**Elks Care - Elks Share**

### *Did you know?*

When snow and ice blanket our parking lot and walkways, most people are not aware that our contractor only plows the main parking areas. Snow removal and de-icing for walking areas are the responsibility of the Lodge and the work is not done by magic elves. We have three individuals who volunteer their time and energy to shovel and salt to ensure safe walking for our members and guests. Patrick Mansfield, Don Roy, and Mike Cummings don't expect accolades, but they deserve recognition. And now you know.

## **PUB NIGHT WITH "THE CLASSICS"**

Starting in January you will be able to not only enjoy our exceptional Pub Night Food on Friday nights. We are expanding your experience on January 9<sup>th</sup> and January 23<sup>rd</sup> to enjoy two nights of Wayne and Joey performing, "THE CLASSICS", that is the great music from yesterday the 50's 60's and 70's which includes Rock, Country, Swing, Pop and Motown. Music some of you grew up listening to so why not expand your social calendar to come to "Pub Night" and stay for a while socialize, dance and enjoy a super show from 6:00 to 9:00pm. The entertainment for PUB NIGHT will continue February 6 and February 20, March 6 and March 20. Tell old man winter you going to beat the winter blues by coming out to enjoy some fun and entertainment.

Tom Curley

Chairman Board of Directors



## **NOTICE TO ELKS INTERESTED IN BEING AN OFFICER OR TRUSTEE FOR THE 2026-2027 ELKS YEAR**

Lodge members will be nominating candidates for six Officer positions (Exalted Ruler, Esteemed Leading Knight, Esteemed Loyal Knight, Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Secretary and Treasurer) and one open Trustee position (Trustee Five Year) for the 2026-2027 Elks Year at the Lodge's regular meeting on February 3, 2026. The PER Association of Saratoga-Wilton Lodge No. 161 is charged with making recommendations on prospective candidates for the seven elected positions.

The PER Association will be interviewing prospective candidates for office on Thursday, January 22, 2026 starting at 6:15 pm, and if needed, Sunday, January 25, 2026 starting at 2:30 pm. If you are interested in serving in one of the seven elected positions, please call or email PER Association President Steve Dorsey at (518) 369-1985 or [stephendorsey1@gmail.com](mailto:stephendorsey1@gmail.com) by no later than January 19, 2026 to schedule a time to be interviewed and advise which office or offices you are interested in serving in.

## **Mark Your Calendars**

**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**

**200 Club Monthly Drawing  
Friday, January 16, 2026 @ 6:30 pm**

**PER Interviews of Officer Candidates for 2026 – 2027  
Thursday, January 22, 2026 Starting at 6:15 pm  
and if needed  
Sunday, January 25, 2026 Starting at 2:30 pm**

**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**

**There Will Be a Sign-Up Sheet in the Lounge  
For Anyone Interested In Attending the Dinner**

**East Regional Hoop Shoot  
Saturday, February 7, 2026 – Registration: 9:00 am, Start: 10:00 am  
Glens Falls High School Gym, 10 Quade Street, Glens Falls, NY, 12801**

**Sweetheart Dance  
Saturday, February 14, 2026  
Cocktail Hour: 5:30 pm- 6:30 pm, Dinner: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm  
Dancing to Skippy and the Pistons 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm  
\$60.00 Per Person**

**Election of 2026-2027 Officers  
Tuesday, February 17, 2026 @ 7:00 pm**

**200 Club Monthly Drawing  
Friday, February 20, 2026 @ 6:30 pm**

**January 2026**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Years Day Closed <b>No Cornhole</b>	2 Pub Night	3 Powers Baby Shower <hr/> Dance Party (H)
4	5 Bingo (H)	6 Lodge Meeting 7 PM	7 Curbside Dinner Chicken and Biscuits	8 Cornhole (H) 6-8 PM	9 Pub Night	10
11 Toy Fair (H)	12 Bingo (H)	13	14 Curbside Dinner Roast Pork	15 <b>No Cornhole</b>	16 Pub Night  200 Club Drawing	17
18	19 Bingo (H)	20 Lodge Meeting 7 PM	21 Curbside Dinner Stuffed Shells	22 Cornhole (H) 6-8 PM PERs Interview 2026-2027 Officers	23 Pub Night	24
25 Craft/Garage Sale	26 Bingo (H)	27	28 Curbside Dinner	29 Cornhole (H) 6-8 PM	30 Pub Night	31

**February 2026**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Bingo (H)	3 Lodge Meeting 5:30 PM PER Night Initiations	4 Curbside Dinner	5 Cornhole (H) 6-8 PM	6 Pub Night	7
8 Toy Fair (H)	9 Bingo (H)	10	11 Curbside Dinner	12 Cornhole (H) 6-8 PM	13 Pub Night	14 Sweetheart Dance (H)



**January Birthdays**



1 Richard Arpei	8 Thomas Boehlert	13 William Wattie, Jr.	22 Brian Companion
1 John Shaw	8 Thomas Fersch	14 Tammy Lynn Collins	22 Lewis Dempsey
2 John Barney	9 Carol Catone	16 Bruce Jones	22 Stephen Horne
2 Roberty Murphy	9 William Donnelly	16 Walter Stuetzel	22 Dora Lee Stanley
3 Steven Green	9 Efrain Melendez	17 James Ciccolella	24 Michael Smith
3 Deborah Kiehl	10 Jeffery Lafave	17 Stephen Dorsey	28 Richard Anderson, Jr.
4 Alphonse Lambert, Jr.	10 Anthony Martino	17 Scott Germain	28 Daniel Lynch
4 Bruce Morrow	10 Michael Plante	17 Kathianne King	28 Barbara Primett
6 Kim Marie Collingwood	12 Brian Barry	17 Marcy Molnar	29 Kevin Fitzpatrick
6 Linda Maratto	12 David Foley	18 Wendy Kruczowy	30 Charles Ward
7 Joseph Dalton	12 Marcia Okosky	20 Sandra Hennigan	30 Charles Wilson
7 Don Roy	13 John Safford	20 Dennis Kagel	
8 Jennifer Barry	13 James Sullivan	21 Greg Burdick	

# Lodge Children's Christmas Party

December 14, 2025



# Lodge Hoop Shoot

December 6, 2025



Volunteers Bill Ford, Dave Waghorn, Marge Leabourne, Linda Ford, Jim Ash, Kriss Kimmer, and Dora Lee Stanley



Lodge Hoop Shoot Winners moving on to District Hoop Shoot on January 4, 2026



Hoop Shoot winners who attended Hoop Shoot Awards Ceremony on 12/ 17/25, with Bruce Jones, Steve Dorsey, and ER Kathy Jackson

# Lodge Memorial Service

December 7, 2025

The first Sunday each December we remember our members that departed since our last service. This year we remembered 13 members.

## 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		



Event or Committee	Day	Date	Time	# of people needed	Details	Contact
<b>Bingo</b>	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.
<b>Curb-Side Dinner</b>	Wednesday	weekly	4-6pm	2 to 6	Help bag curb-side dinners	Volunteers may only be needed once or twice a month. If interested, see Patrick.
<b>Garage Sales</b>	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
<b>Ice Cream and Popcorn service at Stratton VA</b>	Sunday	Jan. 18	11:45am to 1:30pm	2-3 people needed	Serve ice cream and popcorn to patients and staff at the Stratton VA Hospital	ER Kathy Kjax.elks161@gmail.com

**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](mailto:kjax.elks161@gmail.com)**

# *Sweetheart Dance*

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



**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**

## **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**



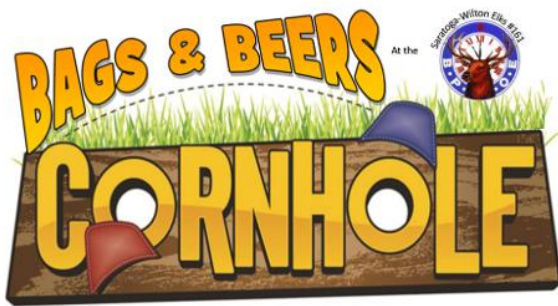
*Bring a date or come  
alone to dance and  
have a great time!*

**Raffle Baskets!**



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](mailto:bash2@nycap.rr.com) with your entrée choice and number of guests. Checks (made payable to Saratoga-Wilton Elks #161) or cash only.



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

Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> - Cornhole 6 PM

Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> - **No Cornhole**

Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> - Cornhole 6 PM

Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> - Cornhole 6 PM

Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> - Cornhole 6 PM

Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> - 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

