



THE EPHRATA-READING ELKS NEWS

Ephrata-Reading Elks #115 | 170 Akron Rd | Ephrata, PA 17522

From the Exalted Ruler

As summer comes to a close, we turn our attention back to the important work that defines who we are as Elks. The warm months gave us moments of fellowship, music, and community — reminders of why our Lodge matters and why our presence in the community is so important. Now, as we move into the fall season, it's time to carry that spirit forward.

As we enter September, we also pause to remember the solemn anniversary of **September 11, 2001**. We honor the nearly 3,000 lives lost, the first responders who ran toward danger, and the families whose lives were forever changed. Let us carry their memory with us — in our service, in our compassion, and in our commitment to community. **Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken — and neither are the heroes and victims of that day.**

Parade season is upon us, and our Lodge will proudly participate in two upcoming events:

- **Ephrata Parade – September 23**
- **New Holland Parade – September 30**

We desperately need members to help carry the flag in these parades. This is one of the most visible ways we show our community who we are and what Elksdom stands for. When we march together, we demonstrate charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity — not just in words, but in action.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to members who consistently step forward when the Lodge calls. Our **Leading Knight Kristi Bear, House Chairman Shawn Bear, Tiler Jay Crills, and Chaplan Patrice Conner** all came together on short notice to represent our Lodge at Ephrata's National Night Out. Their dedication is a shining example of members helping members and strengthening our Lodge through service.

In moments like those we share during Midday Music, you can see exactly what makes Elksdom special. It isn't about the sunshine or the setting — it's about the way our members show up for one another. Whether it's sharing a meal, supporting a fellow member's craft, or simply being present, these gatherings reflect the core values we live by: **charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity.**

Midday Music is more than entertainment; it's fellowship in action. Every laugh, every conversation, and every small gesture of support becomes part of the fabric that keeps our Lodge thriving. These moments remind us that when we come together, we

strengthen not only our bonds as members, but the spirit of our Lodge itself.

Come see what it's all about — bring your friends and show them what Elksdom truly means. **Elks Care. Elks Share. And together, we keep our Lodge strong.**

One of the greatest privileges of being an Elk is the ability to walk into any lodge across the country and feel instantly at home. Your dues don't just support Ephrata-Reading Lodge No. 115 — they open the doors to a nationwide network of communities, each with its own traditions, stories, and personality.

Some lodges are lively social hubs, others are quiet historic spaces filled with decades of memories. Some have breathtaking views, others have legendary kitchens. But everywhere you go, you're greeted not as a stranger, but as a brother or sister in Elksdom — welcomed with a handshake, a smile, and a sense of belonging.

Every visit becomes a memory. Every lodge becomes a new chapter in your Elk journey. And every handshake reminds us that being an Elk is bigger than any one building — it's a nationwide family waiting to welcome you in.

As we step into the fall season, let's carry forward the fellowship, pride, and unity that make Elksdom special. Show up when you can. Support one another. Represent our Lodge with pride. And remember:

Elks Care. Elks Share. And together, we keep our Lodge strong.

Fraternally,
Patrick Conner
Exalted Ruler

REMINDER: House Committee Meeting – New Day

Please note that the **House Committee Meeting** will now be held on the **2nd Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM**. This is a change from our previous Monday schedule, so please update your calendars accordingly.

Your participation and input are always valued, and we look forward to seeing you there as we continue working together for the good of our lodge.



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URGENT! Flag Carriers Needed for Parade Season

Fall and parade season is right around the corner, and our lodge is once again proud to march in our local community events. We are currently seeking **flag carriers** to represent Ephrata-Reading Elks Lodge No. 115 in two upcoming parades.

If you are able to help, please contact **Jeff Lied** at (223) 264-0621 or **Pat Conner** at (609) 471-2641 to let them know you can participate.

Upcoming Parades

- **September 23** – Ephrata Parade
- **September 30** – New Holland Parade

Carrying the flag is a meaningful way to show pride in our lodge, support our community, and demonstrate the values of Elksdom.

We hope to see many members step forward to help make this year's parade season a success.

Work Weekend Cleanup – Lend a Hand This Fall

Now that summer is officially behind us, it's a great time to roll up our sleeves and help with Lodge cleanup. Keeping our grounds looking their best is a team effort, and even a little bit of your time makes a big difference.

We've scheduled several **Work Weekend** dates to tackle general cleanup, small projects, and those odds and ends that keep our Lodge welcoming for members and guests. If you can spare a few minutes, come out and join us — fellowship and fresh air included.

Upcoming Work Weekend Dates

- **September 12**
- **October 3**
- **November 14**

Looking Ahead to Our 2027 Lodge Traditions

As we look ahead to 2027, we're excited to share a lineup of events that celebrate the heart, history, and spirit of Elksdom. Over the last two years, we've missed some of these traditions — and now is the perfect time to get involved so we can bring them back stronger than ever.

Next year, our Lodge will proudly host:

- **St. Patrick's Day Party – March 20** A long-standing favorite filled with fellowship, fun, and plenty of green.
- **Children's Ball – May 15** A new tradition created especially for the **special children in our communities**, many of whom are supported by our dedicated **Home Service Nurses**. This event gives these children a magical day designed just for them — a true reflection of Elksdom's compassion.
- **Summer Concert – June 19** A chance for members and guests to enjoy music, sunshine, and togetherness.
- **Golf Outing – July 17** One of our most beloved summer traditions, bringing members together for friendly competition and camaraderie.
- **Dog Days of Summer – August 21** A long-standing Lodge tradition celebrating the end of summer. After being missed for the last **two years**, we're thrilled to bring Dog Days back in 2027. It's a day of fellowship, fun, and community — a tradition worth keeping alive.

These events are part of what makes our Lodge unique. They bring us together, strengthen our bonds, and keep our traditions alive — old and new. But they only happen when members step forward, participate, and lend a hand.

We need you. Get involved now so we can keep these traditions going for years to come. Whether you volunteer, attend, or help spread the word, your support ensures these events continue to grow and thrive.

Let's make 2027 a year full of pride, fellowship, and Elk spirit.

Stay Connected — Newsletter & Calendar Now on Elks.org

We're happy to share that our Lodge newsletter is now available for **download directly from elks.org Lodge #0115 Home page** under **[Lodge News](#)**. This makes it easier than ever to stay informed, even if you can't make it to the Lodge in person.

Our **Lodge Calendar** is also being actively updated with all upcoming events, meetings, and activities. You can view it anytime on elks.org under **[Calendar](#)** on the **Lodge #0115 Home page**

Having every member signed up on **elks.org** is more important than ever. Once registered, you gain access to Lodge news, national resources, event updates, and your **digital membership card**, which is available right on your profile. It's a convenient way to verify your membership wherever you go.

If you haven't created your elks.org account yet, now is the perfect time. Staying connected keeps our Lodge strong and ensures you never miss an update. Staying informed keeps us moving forward



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Elk of the Month – Jeff Lied

This month, we proudly honor **Jeff Lied** as our **Elk of the Month** — a member whose dedication, generosity, and unwavering commitment to service truly embody the spirit of Elkdom.

Jeff devoted countless hours at the Lodge repairing and restoring our outdoor bathrooms after the harsh winter left them damaged. His expertise and willingness to step in ensured that our grounds remain welcoming and functional for members and guests alike. Jeff never waits to be asked — when something needs attention, he shows up.

But Jeff's impact reaches far beyond the Lodge. He is celebrated throughout the community as a shining example of true charity. This year, Jeff was honored as one of the **top drivers for the Make-A-Wish Foundation Lancaster County Truck Convoy**, raising an incredible **\$54,908.85** to help grant life-changing wishes for local children. His dedication to this cause reflects the deepest values of our Order and demonstrates what one person's passion can accomplish.

What makes Jeff truly exceptional is the way he consistently steps up when fellow Elks need help. Whether it's a project, a repair, or a last-minute call for support, Jeff is one of the first to lend a hand. His reliability, kindness, and willingness to serve strengthen our Lodge and inspire others to follow his example.

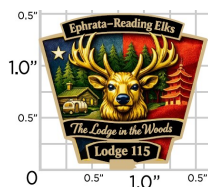
Members like Jeff are what make Elkdom shine and grow. His service, generosity, and brotherly love remind us that Elkdom is not just an organization — it's a family built on caring, sharing, and showing up for one another.

New Lodge Pins Arriving in Late October

We're happy to share that our new **Ephrata-Reading Lodge No. 115** pins have officially been ordered and will be delivered in **late October**. This updated design is something we can all be proud of, giving members a fresh way to show their Elk spirit and represent our Lodge wherever they go.

Pins will be available at the Lodge for **just \$5**, making it easy for every member to pick one up, add it to their collection, or trade with fellow Elks across the state and beyond.

Keep an eye out — they'll be here before you know it, and we can't wait to see them worn proudly throughout the Lodge.



New Lodge Email Addresses

As part of our effort to keep communication organized and give our Lodge a more polished and professional appearance, the following officers have now been assigned new official Lodge email addresses:

- **Trustees:** Trustees@elks115.com
- **Secretary:** Secretary@elks115.com
- **House Committee:** House@elks115.com
- **Treasurer:** Treasurer@elks115.com
- **Exalted Ruler:** ER@elks115.com
- **Leading Knight:** LeadingKnight@elks115.com

Please add these addresses to your safe senders list and make sure they are not being filtered into your spam folder. This will help ensure you continue receiving important Lodge updates, announcements, and reminders without interruption.

Thank you for helping us move forward with a cleaner, more unified Lodge communication system.



Lodge of Sorrow

ELEVEN O'CLOCK TOAST: You have heard the tolling of eleven strokes. This is to impress upon you that with us the hour of eleven has a tender significance. Wherever Elks may roam, whatever their lot in life may be, when this hour falls upon the dial of night, the great heart of Elkdom swells and throbs. It is the golden hour of recollection, the homecoming of those who wander, the mystic roll call of those who will come no more. Living or dead, Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken. Morning and noon may pass them by, the light of day sink heedlessly in the West, but ere the shadows of midnight shall fall, the chimes of memory will be pealing forth the friendly message, "To our absent members."

Almighty God, unto Thy love and mercy we commend the souls of our Members. May light perpetual shine upon them, until the morning breaks and the shadows flee away. May we realize that we are Thy children and may we so live that when our day is done, we may face the eternal change that comes to us all in faith and confidence through Thy redeeming grace and power. May the peace of God which passeth all understanding abide with us forevermore. Amen.

000915 Howard Weachter

Lodge Officers 2026/2027

Exalted Ruler..... Patrick Conner
 Leading Knight Kristi Bear
 Loyal Knight.....Brenda Spencer PER, PDDGER
 Lecturing Knight Eric Stark
 Inner Guard Dorothy Martin
 Tiler Jay Crills
 Secretary..... Jeff Ellsworth, PER, PDDGER
 Treasurer..... Pam Carvell
 Esquire Judy Frantz
 Chaplin Patrice Conner
 Justice Robert Behney

Trustees 2026/2027

5 yearBryan Redcay
 4 year Jeremy Reed
 3 year Keith Sauder
 2 year Jeff Lied
 1 year Karla Sweigart

Editors / LayoutOPEN

GRILLROOM HOURS

CLOSED MONDAY & TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 4 PM TO 10 PM

FRIDAY 3 PM TO 11 PM

SATURDAY 11 AM TO 11 PM

SUNDAY 4PM TO 10 PM



SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 General Meeting. 7:00pm	2 	3	4 Friday Night Dinner 5-8pm. Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, and Corn	5 Midday Music: Bourbon Blues Band 12-3pm
6 	7 	8 New Member Initiation 7pm	9 	10 Activities Meeting 5pm House Meeting 6pm	11 Friday Night Dinner Pulled Pork BBQ with Baked Beans and Coleslaw 5-8pm	12 Midday Music: Dirty River Band 5-8pm
13 	14	15 General Meeting. 7:00pm	16 	17	18 Friday Night Dinner: Rib Night 5-8pm	19 District Deputy Kevin Krause PRE Visit 10:30am
20 	21 Trustee Meeting 6:30pm	22	23 	24	25 Friday Night Dinner: Seafood/ Pasta Night 5-8pm	26 Midday Music: Rob Bass 12—3pm
27 	28	29	30 			