



The Benevolent Protective Order of Elks

"A Fraternal Organization"

PRIDE OF 688

VOLUME 74 NUMBER 9

September 2026

Hello to all my Brothers and Sisters in Elksdom,

Hard to believe we are in September already! Summer is flying by! The last couple months have been fun and busy. We have seen our lodge bursting at the seams for a 125 th celebration at the end of July, with the past Grand Exalted Ruler Bryan Klatt and his wife Sue being in attendance. Then we enjoyed the Mallards game on the first Sunday in August. Wow, what a trip that was, with 23 members and guests! Too bad the Mallards couldn't bring home a win. Oh well, that's baseball. We had a Name that Tune Night on the 20th. The bowling group was in to have their meeting. The Oldtimers/PER dinner committee have started their planning. This is a great event to see our history in real life, and to hear the stories of all the people that paved the way for all of us today. I want to personally thank our long-term members and PERs for the dedication and devotion that they have brought to our organization over the years, thank you!

Exalted Ruler's Message



At the beginning of September, we all will be celebrating Labor Day. Do you know the true meaning of Labor Day? It doesn't just indicate the end of summer coming. On June 28th, 1894 the US Congress passed legislation to make the first Monday in September, Labor Day; signifying the social and economic accomplishments of the American workforce. Now, who pushed to get Labor Day as a holiday is a little more vague. Some believe it was Peter J. McGuire, the general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. Others believe it was Matthew Maguire, the secretary of the International Association of Machinists. My grandfather was a member of the Brotherhood of Carpenters, so I'm leaning towards picking him. However, you can form your own opinion on who started this. How does this all tie back to the Elks? The very first state to introduce legislation for Labor Day was New York, in 1885, and passed in 1887. New York is also home to Elks Lodge #1. Our founding fathers were 15 actors, singers, and theater workers from New York. Do you think maybe some of those members had something to do with the start of Labor Day? I am not sure - but it's possible, I think. So, please take some time to spend with your family and friends during this weekend to enjoy some relaxation.

September is always a little somber on the day the World stopped turning, September 11th, 2001. Where were you that day? I can still remember where I was when it happened. This year it is fitting that we will be having our first responders' coffee and donuts day on 9/11. We should be proud to give back to the courageous men and women that run toward the crisis to help others. Join us to say thank you to them and talk to them.

We hope everyone will be able to come to the end of summer picnic on September 13th. It will be great to see everyone! Bring a dish and spend some time with all your amazing brothers and sisters in Elksdom!

If you are looking for a fun night with a little competition, Portage has asked us to come visit and have a game night with them on September 26th. This is the same day as famous Elk member, Gene Autry's birthday, September 26th, 1907. Which is just 39 years after the Elks was formed. As always, we are open every Wednesday and Thursday with drinks and food. Come see us! Have some great food, a couple of drinks and spend some time with us. I am always happy to have a conversation with any member, and very much enjoy getting to know each and every one of our members.

Also mark your calendars - President's Night is a little earlier this year on October 3rd. So please come and see our WEA State President, the program, and events that night. I look forward to seeing you all soon at our favorite place, the Baraboo Elks Lodge!

Fraternity,
Jason Snyder, Exalted Ruler

2026-2027 LODGE OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler:	Jason Snyder
Esteemed Leading Knight:	Beth Goethel
Esteemed Loyal Knight:	Ashley Schreiber
Esteemed Lecturing Knight:	Joy Swantz
Treasurer:	Kristy Snyder
Secretary:	Anna Lange
Inner Guard:	Ryan Swantz
Tiler:	Charlotte Snyder
Esquire:	Jim Francisco
Chaplain:	Craig Giese

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jason Snyder Beth Goethel Ashley Schreiber
Joy Swantz Kristy Snyder Anna Lange
Tom Genovese Tony Kieffer Nick Lange

DISTRICT DEPUTY CENTRAL DISTRICT

Terry Buck

CLUB MANAGEMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors operates the management functions of the Club. They are responsible for oversight, direction, and supervision of all club employees. This encompasses activities that may arise from time to time. Comments regarding management should be directed to the Chairman of the Board of Director.

If you would like to meet with the Board of Directors, please make arrangements prior to the Board meetings so that time may be allotted for your discussion. Board meetings are open to all members, unless otherwise required by subjects that mandate a closed session.

PAST EXALTED RULERS

Baker, Gary	Lange, Nick
Francisco, James	Larson, Andy
Giese, Craig	Messer, James
Greenwood, Robert	Meyer, Bruce
Hintze, Erik	Miller, Rick
Hoppe, Michael	Standiford, Brian
Howard, Sammy	Wedekind, Phil
Ion, Luisa	Wickus, Harold
Kieffer, Tony	Wiese, Bill

2026-2027 PER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	CRAIG GIESE
VICE PRESIDENT	BOB GREENWOOD
SECRETARY/TREASURER	SAM HOWARD

Lodge meets on the first and third Tuesdays at 7:00 pm except in July and August when sessions are held only once per month as noted in the Bulletin and in December only one session on the first Tuesday of the month.

LADIES AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Sherry Baldwin

E-mail: barabooelkslodge688@gmail.com

Secretary: 608-963-7782

Please join us for a fun and joyful

END OF SUMMER PICNIC

**SUNDAY, SEP 13TH, 2026
AT 11 AM**

AT THE LODGE



Packer Game @ 3:25

Bring a dish to pass



September Special

\$7

Boss Hog Cheeseburger & fries

Cheeseburger topped with pulled pork



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

01 Tylor Robinson	12 Sharon Luther
04 Leo LaVigne	12 Teri Sonsalla
05 Michael Schell	13 Tracy Deppe
08 George Graham	21 James Astle
10 Robert Kieffer	28 William Pierce
11 Megan Unger	29 John Welch
12 Steven Hanger	30 Daniel Greenwood

**Stop in for your free
BIRTHDAY DRINK during your
birthday month!**

BARABOO ELKS LODGE 688 BULLETIN

PUBLISHED AT

401 Oak St, P.O. Box 103, Baraboo, WI 53913

608-356-6458

A Non-Profit Fraternal Organization

Baraboo Elks Bulletin

Published Monthly

Save the date

Saturday October 3rd
WEA State President Visit
at the Baraboo Elks Lodge

Saturday October 10th
Fall Fair on the Square
Food Stand at the Baraboo
Elks Lodge

Saturday October 17th
Old Timer's - PER Dinner
at the Baraboo Elks Lodge

Saturday October 24th
Fall Wine Tasting at the
Baraboo Elks Lodge

New Keyless Entry System Coming Soon!

We're excited to announce an upgrade to our Lodge's entry system!

In the coming weeks, we'll be replacing our current membership card access lock with a new electronic keypad entry system. Instead of swiping your membership card, you'll simply enter your membership number on the keypad to unlock the door.

Your membership number can be found on your current membership card, so we encourage everyone to take a moment to familiarize yourself with it before the new system is activated.

We're excited to bring this new technology to the Baraboo Elks Lodge and appreciate your patience as we make this transition. We'll share the activation date and any additional instructions as we get closer to the switch.



wELcome to our new members

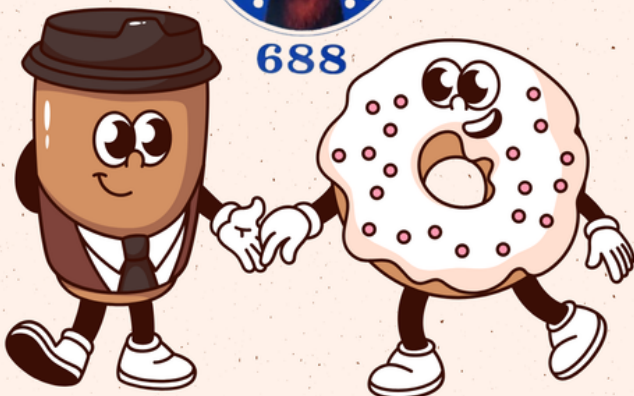
Lodge of Sorrow



It is with deep sorrow that
we announce the passing
of our esteemed Brothers,
Lee Hoppe and
Phillip Wedekind.

To Our Absent Members

DONUTS & COFFEE



Wed 9/11 8-11 am

401 Oak St, Baraboo, WI 53913

**All area First Responders are invited to join
us for complimentary coffee and donuts!**





Congratulations to member Bob Griffith who was inducted into the Sauk County USBC Hall of Fame

THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING WITH US!!

Celebrating 125 Years of Elks in Baraboo!

What a day! Our 125th Anniversary Celebration was truly one to remember. We were honored to have so many of our members, fellow Wisconsin Elks, and distinguished dignitaries join us at the Lodge to celebrate this incredible milestone.

The rededication ceremony was something to be seen and a special way to honor the history, traditions, and countless people who have helped make Baraboo Elks Lodge #688 what it is today.

The celebration lasted all day, with delicious hors d'oeuvres served before the ceremony, lunch following, and a beautifully decorated—and absolutely delicious—anniversary cake! We were also entertained by an amazing Beer Choir, adding even more fun and energy to an already incredible day.

A huge thank you goes to our 125th Anniversary Committee, who did an absolutely amazing job planning, organizing, and bringing this special celebration to life. Their hard work and attention to detail made the day truly unforgettable!

And, of course, a heartfelt thank you to all of our members who came out to celebrate this amazing cornerstone in our Lodge's history. Here's to 125 years of service, friendship, and community—and to many more years to come!



Baraboo Elk's Lodge

Thursday

9/17/26

at 6pm sharp!!

Join us at the Portage Elks Lodge on September 26th at 5:30pm for a fun-filled Match Game! Come out, cheer on our Baraboo team, and help us bring home the win. It's sure to be a great night of fun, friendly competition, and Elks spirit!

Let's go, Baraboo!

The Dictionary Project is Coming Up!

We're gearing up for one of our favorite community projects—the Elks Dictionary Project! We're excited to reach out to area third graders, order and deliver the dictionaries, and share a little about who the Elks are and what we do in our community. If you'd like to help support this wonderful tradition, donations are always appreciated. You can mail your donation to:

Baraboo Elks Lodge
PO Box 103
Baraboo, WI 53913



or drop it off at the Lodge anytime we're open. Thank you for helping us put dictionaries—and smiles—in the hands of local kids!

Our amazing membership came together in a very short time to collect donations for our fellow Wisconsin Elks at the Neenah-Menasha Lodge, which stepped up as a community center after severe weather and tornadoes impacted the area. We were proud to deliver bottled water and other essential supplies to help support their efforts and the community they were serving. This is what Elks helping Elks—and community—looks like!



BARABOO ELKS #688

CASH RAFFLE

ONLY 500 TICKETS SOLD!!!

\$20 EACH

★ GRAND PRIZE	\$1,000
★ SECOND PRIZE	\$500
★ THIRD PRIZE	\$250
★ FOURTH PRIZE	\$250
★ 5 TH -10 TH PRIZE	\$50

DRAWING HELD SATURDAY DECEMBER 19TH

All proceeds benefit
BARABOO ELK CHARITIES

Thank You to our Sponsors!

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Sherman Salter
Kim Thayer
Rick Lewison

GOLD

Bev Hinz
Fred Williams
Steve McMahon-In Honor
of Walter McMahon

SILVER

Bob Greenwood

Silver Donors donate \$50 for six months of sponsorship.

Gold Donors donate \$100 for a full year of sponsoring.

Platinum Donors gift over \$100 toward the publication of our bulletin.

We also welcome our commercial sponsors who chose to advertise in our monthly bulletin. All of these sponsors are members, so please consider becoming a patron of these businesses

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PRIDE OF 688

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BARABOO ELKS LODGE NO. 688

401 Oak Street, P. O. Box 103
Baraboo, WI 53913

SEPTEMBER

2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 OPEN 5PM BOARD MEETING 6PM LODGE MEETING 7PM FRYER FOOD & PIZZA AVAILABLE	2 OPEN 4PM FULL MENU SERVED 5-8:30PM	3 OPEN 4PM FULL MENU SERVED 5-8:30PM	4	5
6	7	8	9 OPEN 4PM FULL MENU SERVED 5-8:30PM	10 OPEN 4PM FULL MENU SERVED 5-8:30PM	11 DONUTS & COFFEE W/ FIRST RESPONDERS 8-11AM	12
13 END OF SUMMER PICNIC OPEN AT 11AM, PACKER GAME @ 3:25PM	14	15 OPEN 5PM BOARD MEETING 6PM LODGE MEETING 7PM FRYER FOOD & PIZZA AVAILABLE	16 OPEN 4PM FULL MENU SERVED 5-8:30PM	17 OPEN 4PM FULL MENU SERVED 5-8:30PM 6PM EUCHRE	18 WEA FALL CONVENTION IN APPLETON	19
20	21	22	23 OPEN 4PM FULL MENU SERVED 5-8:30PM	24 OPEN 4PM FULL MENU SERVED 5-8:30PM	25	26 MATCH GAME BARABOO VS PORTAGE @ PORTAGE ELKS LODGE- GAMES @ 5:30PM
27	28	29	30 OPEN 4PM FULL MENU SERVED 5-8:30PM			