



ECHOES



From the Watchung Hills Elks Lodge 885

Exalted Ruler's Message

- Danny Larsen, PER



I can't believe that it's June already! That means that December must be just around the corner ☺... seriously time just seems to go by so quickly. I'm looking forward to the Wildwood Convention, and hoping for cool sunny weather for the Parade and a chance to spend some time with fellow Elks from around the State. I encourage members to join us for the Parade March, it always makes me proud to represent our Lodge #885.

We have our visit to Elks Camp Moore coming up next month. Serving at the barbecue will change your outlook on the Elks and possibly your outlook on Life itself; it is truly a moving experience. I strongly recommend attending the Camp Picnic at least once – you'll really appreciate what the State Major Project does for those with Special Needs.

I will be attending the Elks National Convention in St. Louis the first week of July, representing our Lodge and voting on the Resolutions presented there, and cheering on Piscataway Lodge #2414 as they represent New

Jersey in the National Ritual Competition at the Convention – it should be exciting.

They say you get out of things what you put into them so with that in mind we all have a lot to look forward to, for all the effort that is invested in our Lodge by the membership should turn out to be nothing short of Amazing.

We are Looking forward to our Deb Case Golf Outing June 14 th which will be held at Warrenbrook Golf Course this year – be sure you get signed up for the Fun.

Our Flag Day Ceremony will be held Saturday, June 15th at 4:00 PM. The Boy Scouts from Warren's Troop 228 will be assisting us again this year.

WE NEED YOU!
How to get new members?
ASK THEM!

Elks Care - Elks Share

To receive a full-color bulletin by email, ask us to update your email address by sending it to membership@elkslodge885.org or by visiting <https://www.elkslodge885.org/subscribe>. We do not have current email addresses for everyone!

Watchung Hills Elks Lodge #885

1 Elks Trail
Warren, NJ 07059
908-668-9727
news@elkslodge885.org
membership@elkslodge885.org
www.elkslodge885.org
<https://www.facebook.com/Elks885/>

Officers

Exalted Ruler	Danny Larsen, PER
Esteemed Leading Knight	David Lewis
Esteemed Loyal Knight	Dave Dante
Esteemed Lecturing Knight	Lisa Carracino
Secretary	Paul Lowell, Sr., PER
Treasurer	Donna Lowell, PER
Esquire	Betty A. Volker, PDD
Chaplain	Kathy Schulz
Inner Guard	John Pizzigoni
Tiler	(vacant)
1 Year Trustee	Francis Bellew, PER
2 Year Trustee	Gene Bataille, PER
3 Year Trustee	Denise Heilman
4 Year Trustee	Stephanie Zitsch, PER
5 Year Trustee	Deborah Figel
Justice	(vacant)

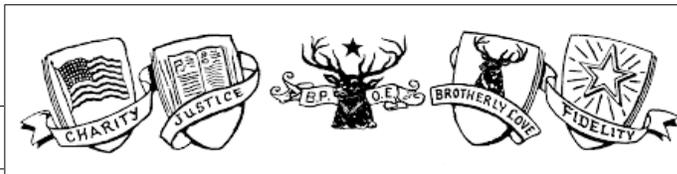
From the Secretary

- Paul Lowell, Sr., PER

If you have not renewed your membership for 2019-2020 – maybe you just misplaced the renewal notice or are having problems. Please contact me and I will assist you in anyway possible.

Please have your family contact me or the lodge if you are incapacitated in any way. We feel bad as a group, finding out something has happened to a member after the fact.

Any questions or concerns you may have, please feel free to contact me at xcg395@verizon.net or my cell 908-230-7303.



Committee Chairs

Army of Hope	Danny Larsen, PER
Americanism	(vacant)
Auditing	Kim DeVizio
Buildings and Grounds	David Dante
Charities	Betty A Volker, PDDGER
Drug Awareness	John Pizzigoni
Elks Memorial Day	David Dante
Elks National Foundation	Joann Bataille
Government Relations	Paul Lowell, Sr., PER
Hoop Shoot	Fran Bellew, PER
Lodge Activities	(vacant)
Membership	Paul Lowell, Sr., PER
Parades	Danny Larsen, ER
Pool	Kim DeVizio
Public Relations	Mike Ryder
Ritual	Betty A. Volker, PDDGER
Scholarships	Fred Hayeck
Soccer Shoot	Fran Bellew, PER
Special Children	Betty A. Volker, PDDGER
Veterans Services	Fran Bellew, PER
Wildwood Convention	Danny Larsen, ER, PER
Youth Activities	Fran Bellew, PER
Youth Tournament	Fran Bellew, PER

Government Relations Committee

- Paul Lowell Sr., PER



A new Elk year has begun and we start reporting the good deeds we do all over again for the fraternal Year 2019-2020.

We really short ourselves on what I receive from Committee Chairs. Please send me the following information as soon as possible after the event.

- Number of Attending
- Number of Elks
- Number of assistants
- Total Elk Hours
- Total Assistant Hours

Here is what we really short ourselves on:

- Total Elk Miles
- Total Assistant Miles.
- Non cash Donations
- Cash Donations.
- Number in Attendance -- include everybody, guests and Elks.
- Hours and Mileage include shopping, going to schools, back and forth to the lodge or where the event is taken place.

We report on the various groups using the lodge and grounds for meetings, such as the Scouts, HPBA, Warren PBA, American Legion, VFW, School groups, etc.

Special Children's Committee

- Betty A. Volker, PDDGER



It's that time of year again. Elks Camp Moore opens in July and runs through August. We currently have 11 children attending the summer sessions, 1 adult attending the adult week and 2 attending the adult respites.

The Lodge committee will be hosting a Camp Moore sendoff picnic for everyone attending the camp this year and their families. This will take place Sunday, June 23rd at our picnic pavilion. We will need all the help we can get so, please let Denise Heilman or I know if you are available. A helper sign up will be posted in the Lodge.

The annual Central District picnic will be Sunday, July 21st. This is a good time for those who have not seen the camp in action, to join us and experience it firsthand. You will not regret it, that I can assure you. The camp also hosts an open house every year and this year it was held Sunday, May 19th from 1:00-3:00pm. All were welcome and tours of the camp were given.

Enjoy the Summer!

Sewer Update

- Danny Larsen, PER

Our Sewer Project has been approved by the Grand Lodge. We are working to complete the permit application for Warren Township and then we can engage with the construction company, electricians, etc. All indications are full steam ahead.

GET INVOLVED!

Drug Awareness Committee

- John Pizzigoni



How do I say thank you...? Simple. "THANK YOU, ELKS."

Your donations for the Walk Out on Drugs campaign far exceeded our goal of \$300 by more than a 50% margin. Our total contributions from Lodge 885 were \$480, led by Richard Pasquarella our Platinum Contributor. There were a total of 35 contributors consisting of current Elks, past members and friends of Elks; hence the herd.

From the \$480 we donated \$300 to our Central District Drug Awareness Chairman Dennis Kopik (Edison Lodge #2487) and \$40 for the Drug Awareness Activities Tent for the Central District; which leaves us with \$140 to officially start our own "Drug Awareness bank account!"

There were a total of ten Lodge 885 Elks who showed up for the Walk Out On Drugs (a special thanks to Mike Ryder and his whole family who showed up; a sure sign of "the strength of the herd"). There were approximately sixty participants from our district contributing a total of \$4,000 (nothing to sneeze at).

On a special note, Melodie Doremus came in second place, beaten only by the short bearded man. There was an objection, however: There is speculation that he did not stay in his lane. No matter what the video shows, Melodie, you'll always be number one in #885 hearts.

With Great Thanks and Respect.

Boosters

- Echoes Boosters that have been renewed since November 2018

November 2018

- Ken and Chris Burd
- Stephen Terrible PSP

January 2019

- Stacy VanLier
- Denise Heilman
- Steve Logothetis
- Nancy Micou
- John Williams

February 2019

- Bruce Helmstetter
- Linda Helmstetter
- George Dealaman
- William Heilman
- Rich Pasquarella
- Thomas Mac Stoker
- Michelle Waiser
- John Tucker
- William Sorensen
- J.E.B. Irvine PER
- Frank Giannelli
- Jane Giannelli
- Ross Long
- Michael Naumoff
- Fran Bellew PER
- Barney Coughlin PER
- Donna Forman
- Charles Mott
- Duke Anderson
- John Misiak
- Valerie Misiak
- Stanley Autocunas PER
- Kim Frazier
- Daniel Ciarlariello
- Rober Venitelli
- William Sorensen

- Michael Metner
- Deborah Metner
- Paul C. Staeger
- Kathleen Olesen
- Michael Dalton

March 2019

- Timothy Lasecia
- William Jones
- James Basille
- Timothy Velazquez
- Ken Pawelek
- Laura Pawelek
- Fred Fennimore
- Tracy Fennimore
- Barbara Verdic
- Vito Truglio
- John Balog
- Betty Volker PDD
- Jim Devizio
- Kim Devizio
- Bill Seavey PER
- Michael Ryder

April 2019

- William Esposito
- Donna Lowell PER
- Paul Lowell Sr. PER



For \$10.00 a year, you too can be an Echoes Booster.

All proceeds will offset the cost of printing and mailing the Bulletin. Thanks to those who have already pledged their support.

Sickness & Distress

- Lynn Spurier is not feeling well.
- Joanne Rehberger was diagnosed with cancer.
- Deb Figel is recovering from a medical procedure.
- Donna Clancy is on the mend.
- Thomas MacStoker is not doing well.
- Gerry Del Piano is not doing well.
- Kim Frazier is recovering from serious injuries.
- David Lewis is limping.



Were you at the Walk Out On Drugs?



From the Bulletin Board – Just in case you missed it!

- Mike Ryder

State Pins and Accessories are available for purchase. Order form is on the bulletin board.

Registration for the “Wildwood Convention” is up – form is on the bulletin board. “This form registers you for the 2019 New Jersey State Elks Association Wildwood Convention and includes entrance to the annual Member’s Appreciation party on Thursday night, beginning at 9pm at the Convention Center. There will be music, dancing, assorted cocktail fountains, beer, wine, soda, snacks & nosh. Registration badges purchased in advance with this form cost \$5. Registration badges purchased in Wildwood cost \$8.”

Registration form for Lodge 885: Available for download here:

<https://www.elkslodge885.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/NJStateElksConvention2019-registration-form.pdf>

NJ Central District May 2019 bulletin, volume 15, issue 9 is available to be read. You can also read it at this link: <https://www.elkslodge885.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/dnlmay2019.pdf>.

The New Jersey Elk paper, Spring 2019, volume 38, issue 1, is available to be read here:

http://www.njelks.org/images/NJELK/NJ-ELKS-Spring_2019.pdf

Pool Committee

- Kim DeVizio



The [lodge swimming pool](#) will open on Monday, Memorial Day and stay open through September 21st, depending on the weather. Signups are at the lodge now – Membership Fees must be paid by July 1st.

Here are all the details for this season:

Fees:

- \$125 per single member
- \$250 per family membership
- \$10 per guest over the age of 5

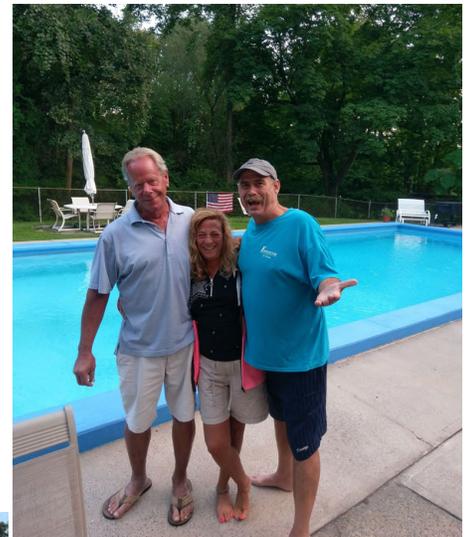
Guests:

- Elk members may visit the pool as a guest two times, and can apply those fees towards pool membership if they decide to join.
- Guests of Elk Pool Members can visit an unlimited number of times.
- All guests must be signed in and pay their fees at the bar.

Hours:

- Monday thru Saturday, 12-10PM
- Sunday 10AM-10PM
- Pool will be CLOSED 8-9PM during regular lodge meetings

Feel free to contact me with any questions at (908) 391-6060 or at kb475@optonline.net.



Signs, Signs, Signs... Can you spot the problem?

Signs serve as a type of silent salesperson for our lodge. They are an essential component of our overall marketing strategy and are used to draw attention to our lodge and to convey our ideals. Because an exterior sign is visible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, its effect is continuous.

These signs were mounted at the Warren Municipal base ball field, East County Pop Warner Field (on Old Stirling Rd. across from Middle School) and the soccer fields on DuBois Rd. Each sign is in a prominent position at the field's entrance and catches the eye of every attending sports fan. Take a look and let us know what you think.



The sign at the bottom is at the corner of Bardy Rd. and Mountain Blvd.



Public Relations

- Mike Ryder

We won the lottery! The Somerset County Freeholders hold an annual lottery, awarding 40 non-profit organizations the opportunity to use the “Community Box” (Suite 306) at TD Bank’s Somerset Patriot ballpark. I saw an announcement about this in January and nominated our lodge.

<https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/Home/Components/News/News/3012/17>

“Giving away tickets for the 30-seat community box is just one way that the county can show its appreciation for all of the work and dedication that nonprofits and community organizations provide,” said Freeholder Director Levine. “This tradition shows how thankful we are for the amazing effort that these organizations give to improve the lives of Somerset County residents.”

“We are grateful for the work that our community-based organizations commit to every year. Many of the members are volunteers that dedicate their time and service without compensation,” he said. “Free tickets and box seats are just one small way for the Board of Chosen Freeholders to show our appreciation for the dedication and hard work of these organizations.”

Community Box Tickets

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Gene Bataille, PER | 16. Linda Helmstetter |
| 2. Joann Bataille | 17. Audrey Lapinski |
| 3. Fran Bellew, PER | 18. David Lewis |
| 4. Adam Benzel | 19. Donna Lowell, PER |
| 5. Candace Benzel | 20. Paul Lowell, Sr., PER |
| 6. Charlie Boschen | 21. Valerie Misiak |
| 7. Lisa Carracino | 22. Kenny Muilkens |
| 8. David Dante | 23. John Pizzigoni |
| 9. Jim DeVizio | 24. Mike Ryder |
| 10. Kim DeVizio | 25. Kathy Schulz |
| 11. Melodie Doremus | 26. Paul Staeger |
| 12. Deborah Figel | 27. Barbara Verdic |
| 13. Shawn Grabko | 28. Betty A Volker, PDD |
| 14. Fred Hayeck | 29. Michelle Waiser |
| 15. Denise Heilman | 30. Stephanie Zitsch, PER |

Our night in the Community Box (Suite 306) is at 7:05pm on Tuesday, June 18th. The Somerset Patriots will be playing the Ducks. Attendees will be on their own for food and beverages.

After some discussion, it has been decided that, in the spirit of the Somerset County Freeholders tradition, the 30 seats will be parceled out to those lodge members that “dedicate their time and service” in this order: Officers, Committee Chairs and Dedicated Volunteers. These members are listed in the box inset in this article – any that can’t attend due to a conflict may nominate another member to replace them (as Danny Larsen, ER has done). Please contact Mike Ryder if you’re on the list, can’t make it and want to nominate a replacement – mryder@elkslodge885.org or 908-605-0305.



Public Relations, continued

- Mike Ryder

Credit cards – Did you know?

- The Grand Lodge has endorsed the use of credit cards for [membership dues](#) and [donations](#).
- Organizations that adopt the use of credit cards see an increase of 15-25% sales
- Bartenders and waitstaff see their tips increase
- Credit cards legitimize your organization
- Many lodges successfully use credit cards and online payment; for example, Lake Hopatcong <https://www.lakehopatcongelks.com/dues---donations>
- 80% of customers prefer credit cards – only 9% of customers prefer cash ([TSYS 2018 Survey](#))
- Consumers expect the ability to make payments wherever, whenever, however ([FISERV 2016 Survey](#)).
- Credit Cards enable online payments
- Online Payments enable Donors to use the convenience of laptops and smartphones, meaning they'll be more likely to follow through with their donations. ([QGIV](#))
- Credit Card users have a tendency to spend 2.5x more on impulse than other donors ([Double the Donation](#)).
- Online Payments save time that would have been spent on in-person or mail delivery ([SmallBizTrends](#))
- Credit Cards simplify cash flow – money is deposited directly in the bank.
- Simplified cash flow can reduce the fraction of membership that does not pay their dues on time.

Here is some positive feedback from other Elks [on the Grand Lodge forums](#):

“My only story is that it's dumb and archaic not to accept credit/debit card these days. Where else do you go that doesn't accept plastic? I would bet not very many places. We have ONE bar in our town that is cash only, but other than that place, I can't think of ONE place I go to that doesn't take plastic.

Even vendors at farmer's markets, art/craft shows, etc. accept cards.

Why wouldn't the Elks?”

“Many do not carry cash any more for various reasons.”

“We were cash or check only for many many years.... We finally made the switch and our income in the lounge and dining room went up exponentially. Getting a machine will bring you out of the dark ages, you just have to be careful who you select as your provider and watch your percentages..”

“I'm in my 20s and only carry cards. If you have a no fee ATM, I don't think it's an issue. If I gotta run to the bank to get cash to pay for my tab, I might choose another place for dinner if I don't have cash on me that evening. Our lodge has credit card processing but we try to encourage our members to start a tab instead of paying for each drink as it'll cut down on fees for the club ”

“When we first decided to accept credit/debit cards in the club and lodge, we met resistance from the club staff, 15 years later, the staff as seen increased tips and more visits by members.”

What do you think?

Dispensations from Central District

- Betty Bellanca

From: Betty Bellanca [mailto:booper336@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 1:24 PM

To: Danny Larsen <dlarsen@wtcom.com>

Subject: Re: [SPAM] Re: Dispensation requests

ER Danny,

Permission granted to move your Flag Day service from June 14th to Saturday, June 15th.

Permission is also granted for you to move your Regular meeting which would fall on the holiday of July 4th to Thursday July 18, 2019.

Have a wonderful and safe Memorial Day weekend.

Betty Bellanca

District Deputy

Central District



Veterans Services Committee

- Francis Bellew, PER



The Central District Veterans Committee will be hosting their Annual Picnics at both Lyons Hospital and Menlo Park Nursing Home.

On Saturday, August 17th we will be at the Lyons VA hospital. Then on Saturday, August 24th we will be at the Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home. Set-up time for both picnics is 11:00 am. Anyone can come out and help.

All are welcome. Feel free to contact me with any questions at (908) 405-2922 or at fatbobs1960@gmail.com.



- | | |
|---|---|
| 6/1 Dennis Lamson
Ken Muilkens | 6/19 Tim Velazquez |
| 6/2 Ken Phillips
Stephen J Terrible PSP | 6/20 Philip Anderson PDD
Geno Bataille Jr. PER
Cheryl Farinella
Paul Mellen Sr.
William Mobus |
| 6/5 Lynn Spurrier | Joe Selinko
Doug Spurrier |
| 6/6 Edwin Carlson | 6/22 John Watt |
| 6/10 John Wienecke Jr. | 6/23 Donna Clancy
Mark Peto |
| 6/12 Gary Lewis | 6/24 Mark Loeffler |
| 6/14 Arthur Coon
Steve Girgus
Richard Ley | 6/25 Doug Buro
Lynette Del Piano
Jacob Kaar |
| 6/15 Ellen Phillips PER
Joanne Rehberger | 6/26 Shawn Grabko |
| 6/17 Tom Reilly
Don Strickland | |
| 6/18 Larry Dillon | |

JUNE 2019

Find the calendar online at our website: <https://www.elkslodge885.org>, then click Events and then "Main Calendar"

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Lodge Meeting Officers – 7 pm General – 8 pm	7 Wildwood Convention	8 Wildwood Convention Parade
9	10	11	12	13	14 3 rd Annual Deb Case Golf Outing	15 Flag Day 4 pm
16 Father's Day	17	18 BOD Meeting 7 pm	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 PER Meeting 7 pm	26	27	28	29
30						

Were you at Comedy Night?

NY-based Australian-Greek comedian Jim Dailakis opened for headliner and New Jersey icon Uncle Floyd. Judging from the laughter it was another successful event benefiting our Charities fund.



**WATCHUNG HILLS
ELKS LODGE # 885**

Proudly Presents

**"Comic
Relief
Night"**

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Somerset Children's Center

- Mindy Hoppe, Director

Excerpted from the May 2019 bulletin from the Somerset Children's Center:

"Exciting things are happening at the Somerset Children's Center! We have begun the demolition of the existing playground making way for the development of our Sensory Garden. Many thanks go out to the volunteers from Manville/Hillsborough, Somerville, and Middlesex! These volunteers worked tirelessly dismantling the playground while recycling the materials as they go.



On May 9th, we attended the New Road School of Somerset Expo 2019! We had a booth set up and met many health and service professionals. The students, teachers, and staff were excited to have us, and we were thrilled to boast about our center and services!

The children have been hit with spring fever so, they have been encouraged to go outside to play. As Mr. Rogers said, "Play is really the work of childhood." Children who have communication challenges, difficulty with social skills, and sensory issues, play offers physical, emotional, and social benefits. Our children have been playing tag, drawing on the sidewalk creating beautiful works of art, and playing pretend. They bring out Legos, cars, and dinosaurs to spur their imaginations.

Through play, children improve their physical skills, enhance their self-esteem, and develop self-confidence. Children learn to collaborate; problem solve while reducing stress and increasing attention. Socially they learn how to make new friends and deal with conflicts while playing with one another. Playing with one another ultimately increases self-advocacy and resiliency."

Elks Care - *Elks* Share

Community Service Project

- Candace and Adam Benzel



Candace and Adam Benzel are leading a community service project on July 3 to renovate a reading room at the Boys & Girls Club of Passaic.

They are partnering with [The Andre Reed Foundation](#), which was established in 2010 by Buffalo Bills NFL Hall of Fame wide receiver Andre Reed to help underprivileged children reach their full potential and become responsible contributors to their communities. Andre has brought his "[Read with Reed](#)" program to seven Boys & Girls Clubs across the country, including Dallas, Philadelphia, San Diego, and Houston, inspiring over 4,000 children to read at least 30 minutes per day.

The goal of Reed's program is to encourage kids to exercise their minds, tackle good books, catch the love of reading, and understand that reading is a way out and up. Candace and Adam are working with him to bring the program here to New Jersey. They will be working with a group of 20 volunteers from the community to paint the reading room, build shelves, interact with kids, and organize a library of books.

To help with this project, Candace and Adam are accepting donations of new or gently used books for children ages 6-13. There is a box at the lodge, feel free to drop books off any time before July 1.

Thank you!!

Cub Scouts Pack 182

- Mike Ryder (Unit Committee Chair)

April and May saw our Scouts working hard on finishing up the last requirements to make Rank advancement for June. Spring Camporee and preparations for Memorial Day parade kept everyone very busy in May, and looking forward to the special events that summer brings like the Pack Picnic in June (at the Elks!)



Cub Scouts Pack 182, continued

- Mike Ryder (Unit Committee Chair)

Cub Scouts below are working on floats for the Memorial Day Parade, and just a few pics from their Spring Camporee held at Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation.



Elks Care - Elks Share

Watchung Hills Elks #885
1 Elks Trail
Warren, NJ 07059

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 492

Address Service Requested

Watchung Hills Elks Lodge #885 is online!

Point your smart-phone's QR-Code reader application (freely available if you don't already have one) at these images to jump to our sites. Bookmark our website so you can check the Lodge calendar. "Like" our Facebook page so you can stay in touch with the daily goings-on.



<https://www.elkslodge885.org>



<https://www.facebook.com/elks885>

"So Long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."