



# ELKS NEWSLETTER

Holland Lodge #1315

May 2021

## Newsletter

Email Address:  
[elknewsletter1315@gmail.com](mailto:elknewsletter1315@gmail.com)

## Club Hours

Email Address:  
[elkslodge1315@gmail.com](mailto:elkslodge1315@gmail.com) &  
[elksclubmanager1315@gmail.com](mailto:elksclubmanager1315@gmail.com)

Mon - Wed 3:00pm - 10:00pm  
Thursday 3:00pm - 10:00pm  
Friday 3:00pm - 10pm  
Saturday 3:00pm - 10:00pm  
Sunday 3:00pm - 8:00pm

## Events

Email Address:  
[elksevents@hotmail.com](mailto:elksevents@hotmail.com)

## Chair officers

Exalted Ruler: Sara DeVries  
Leading Knight: Matt Johnson  
Lecturing Knight: Gordon Jaehnig  
PER  
Loyal Knight: Bob DeVries PER  
Secretary: Barb Jaehnig PER  
Treasurer: Mindi Carr  
Esquire:  
Chaplain: Patrick England  
Inner Guard: Mark Fox  
Tiler: Kelvin Brown  
Trustee: Robin Bailey PER  
Trustee:  
Trustee: Chris Brown  
Trustee: Rudy Lara  
Trustee: Phil Carr

## Exalted Ruler Message

From the Exalted Ruler

Greetings,

I am honored to be the Exalted Ruler for the Lodge this year. I thank you again for your trust and confidence. I will do everything in my power to live up to that honor. The success of our Lodge depends not only on me but on all of us coming together to once again pump life back into our Lodge after the long months of closures and restrictions. You, the members, are the lifeblood and heart of the Lodge! I hope you will commit to making this Lodge the most invigorated and vibrant Lodge in the District!

With the installation of the new Board Offices complete we shift to planning the Lodge year and all the great activities, events and charity work we want to do. I'm excited to announce that Cheryl and Ron Elenbaas will be heading a committee for the Club Events. The kickoff event was the very popular Minute to Win It night. Watch for a calendar of upcoming events! You won't want to miss out on the fun this year.

With the Club activities in extremely capable hands, our Charity work needs leadership. Once again we will be working with the Salvation Army, Community Action House, Kids Food Basket and the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. In the past, I have experienced the fun and joy of meeting the needs in our community and in particular our Veterans at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. I don't want to be selfish and honestly need help. All contacts are established and the time commitment is minimal. Please consider stepping up to help bless others in need by leading one of these worthy causes. You will NOT be thrown into this alone. I will work beside you on these projects.

## What's happening at the Lodge info

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Besides receiving info from e-blasts about what's happening in our Lodge, join our page on Facebook: Holland Elks Lodge #1315.

## Your Help is Needed!

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*Andie Walker*

In order to provide useful content for the newsletter, your help is needed! If you have an article you want in the newsletter or have any ideas for an article that you would like to see, please let me know. In order to have the Newsletter sent out on time, all submissions must be submitted by the 23rd of each month. Anything submitted after the 23rd will be in the next months issue of the Newsletter. Please send submissions to [elknewsletter1315@gmail.com](mailto:elknewsletter1315@gmail.com) or [awalker831@gmail.com](mailto:awalker831@gmail.com)

I hope that Holland Elks 1315 can have a greater impact in the community. If you hear of a need, bring it to a Board Member's attention so we can see if we can assist. Social media provides many opportunities, if we are just looking.

The other item in the forefront is renovating our Lodge and the financing of it. We all love this place and it has many wonderful features, a great location and good property. What it lacks is updated HVAC system, functioning kitchen and a face lift (which some of us understand more than others). There is a committee meeting to address these concerns, if you'd like to have input in the early stages, please let me or Don Disselkoen know.

Remember the Elks is a Volunteer organization, so Volunteer! If you've said in passing that you'd like to help, please come up and figuratively bop me on the head and remind me. Sometimes people (me) get caught up in a hundred little things and biff. Give Grace and be a pest!

I am truly excited about the future of our Lodge and the year to come.

Sara DeVries  
Exalted Ruler

## Secretary's Corner

Welcome to May - Spring here in Michigan. This past April we had a busy month. Our new Officers were installed for the coming year. They are as follows - ER - Sara DeVries, Leading Knight - Mat Johnson, Loyal Knight - Bob DeVries, and Lecturing Knight - Gordon Jaehnig. Our Secretary - Barb Jaehnig, and Treasurer - Mindy Carr. Trustees for the year are Rudy Lara, Robin Bailey, Chris Brown, and Phill Carr. Our Chaplain - Patrick England, Inner Guard - Marc Fox, and the Tiler - Kelvin Brown. Please make sure you thank these members for all their hard work during the year. We couldn't run the Elks without each and every one of them.

We've enjoyed some of the events this past month: Member Dinners and Trivia on Wednesday nights, Min-it to Win-it event,

## May Birthdays

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5/1/2021 Michael Cramer  
William DeCoste  
5/3/2021 Traci Tolan-Lara  
Kenneth Yaeger  
5/5/2021 Glenn Putnam  
5/7/2021 Robert Bateman  
5/8/2021 Edward Cano  
Russell Schuiling  
Roger Van Dam  
5/9/2021 Richard Paauwe  
5/12/2021 Devin Manino  
5/16/2021 Bob De Vries  
Calvin Kempker  
5/17/2021 Ronald Nienhuis  
5/18/2021 James Lievense  
5/19/2021 Danny Cyrus  
Dave Petroelje  
5/20/2021 Marc Fox  
  
5/21/2021 Robert Schafer  
5/22/2021 Tom Guy  
5/23/2021 Alex Arredondo  
5/24/2021 Loren Pommer  
5/25/2021 Joel Serrano  
5/26/2021 Gregg Bloemers  
Joe Guzman  
5/27/2021 Katy Brown  
Peter Mc Gregor  
5/28/2021 Douglas Den Boer  
5/29/2021 Emmett Brown  
Caron Fitzgerald  
Frank Lievense  
Edward Lindstrom  
5/31/2021 Rodney DeWitt  
Brian Paauwe

PER Lasagna Dinner & karaoke, Dart league Tournament and pizza. It's great to see friends and enjoy some activities.

Barb Jaehnig  
Secretary

## Help Wanted

We are looking for Volunteers! We have several opportunities for members to serve their Lodge in small but valuable ways. We understand that people are busy and not necessarily looking for a weekly commitment. We have just the thing for you.

Esquire for the Lodge. This involves only two nights a month, the first and third Tuesdays, assisting the ER with the Lodge Meetings.

Kitchen Crew: We are looking for additional teams or individuals to take on a Wednesday member night or special night meal. This would provide a great relief to Dave and Wayne.

Charity Work: As mentioned in the Exalted Ruler article

## Building Committee Report

The appointed Building Committee has been meeting for months looking at many options concerning our Lodge. Of first consideration was do we stay put or move and either lease or build. Members evaluated several alternative locations and considered the pros and cons and cost of each as well as for staying at our current location and renovating our Building. The decision was made to stay in our current location and commit to improving our building. There is much to be done in that area as well, structurally as well as cosmetically. The Committee is seeking bids on various projects to update the Lodge. First and foremost is new HVAC units. Staying in our location and renovating our building requires funding. It has been determined the best course of action to raise some of the funds is to sell the primarily unused land north of the building and parking lot which is used for the Easter egg hunt. The sale of the land would not only provide revenue to update the building but also lower our taxes. There are currently two parties interested in talking to us about the land. PLEASE NOTE: the only decision right now is

## Look at these happy faces!

Treasured Veterans enjoying their Wheelchair Gliders provided by Holland Lodge! (Sending you the email with the pictures)



to stay. Nothing can happen without going through our own Membership and Grand Lodge. In the near future the committee will present their work and findings to the Membership. Committee members are Don Disselkoen, Paul Geerlings, Dave Johnson, Devin Manino, Ernie Serrano and Sara DeVries. If you would like to join us or have suggestions and ideas, please see one of them. This is an exciting time for our Lodge and its members!!

## LODGE CLEAN UP DAY

Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 16 for our Spring Cleaning of the Lodge! There won't be any fun at Tulip Time so let's make our own during and after sprucing up the Lodge. Work will be both inside and out. Does filing set your soul on fire? Organizing get your motor running? Getting your hands dirty help you connect to the beauty of our world? Do you like to work out your frustrations by tearing things down or cutting brush up? Whatever's your thing, we need you! More information will be coming.

## The P.E.R. Report: (Past Exalted Rulers)

The P.E.R.S. of Holland Lodge #1315 held their annual meeting of the new 2021-2022 year on April 19th. Officers elected for the coming year are: Bob DeVries (president); Ernie Serrano (vice-president); Gord Jaehnig (secretary); and Darick LaLonde (treasurer).

Plans were finalized for the P.E.R. "Opening Celebration" of the new Lodge year, (which was held on Friday, April 23rd) with a Lasagna Dinner (home made by Barb Versendaal) and Karaoke Night.

Additional plans are for a tentative "cook-out" and live music, along with a baked goods & craft show on Saturday, July 31. That event will most likely be "open to the public". More details as we get closer to the date.

## Many thanks

to Dave and Wayne, Ed and Irene Serrano and Mike Householder for providing a delicious burrito dinner after the Installation Service.



PER events are typically held quarterly, in support of our Lodge as both fundraisers, and membership drive opportunities.

Our P.E.R. Association is active, with more than a dozen PERs involved in our Lodge. Did you know that five of us are also current officers for the Lodge? (Bob DeVries/loyal knight; Gord Jaehnig/lecturing knight; Barb Jaehnig/secretary; Robin Bailey/trustee' and Dan Cyrus/trustee.

## Charity Golf Outing

Be sure to mark your calendar for the Annual Holland Elks Charity Golf Outing on July 17 at West Ottawa Golf Club. There will be golf, of course, food, 50/50's, raffle items, event holes and general good time with good people. This outing funds most of our State and National Charity obligations. We will be looking for people to donate items for raffles and some volunteers to make this a spectacular day once again! Your contacts are Karley Shuluga and Sara DeVries.

## Tee It Up!

Be sure to tee it up at these outings. What a great line up of courses!!

June 12	Couples Outing at Crestview
July 17	Holland Lodge Charity Outing at West Ottawa Golf Club
August 7	Men's Outing
August 14	Scotch Doubles at Winding Creek Golf Course
September 11	Northwest District Gold Key Outing at Manistee National

## Couples Scramble

24th St Couples Scramble!

June 12, 2021; Tee times start at 11:00am

\$10.00 per couple (non refundable)

\$37.00 golf WITHOUT food at the turn

## Elk Family

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"We have a good time!  
We help people! We  
have a good time  
helping people!"  
Coming to the Lodge?  
Bring a friend or family  
member. Let's stop  
being the best kept  
secret in Holland!

## Charitable Giving:

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Franklin Challenge - Al  
Davis, Larry Brown, Sara  
DeVries, Bob DeVries, JJ  
Jorgens,

365 Banks - Bob & Sara  
DeVries, Gordon & Bob  
Jaehnig, Gary & Diane  
Dekker

\$40.00 golf WITH food

Sign up sheet will be up mid May

Watch for more information in the June Newsletter

## District Meeting

This past month, members of our Lodge attended a district meeting at the Traverse City Lodge. Jim Rowland, who is part of our District will be installed as the new "Elks MI State President" at the State Meeting in May. He is a great choice for our State President and will help to make this organization even better than it already is. Some points of interest from the meeting are as follows:

1. Major Projects - Normally this is to help young people in need (up to age 18). We are looking at expanding the age group to continue to help those in need past that age.
2. Membership Lapsation - This was a focus this past year after Covid affected all the lodges negatively. The steps taken to help with this had a positive impact on the amount of lapsation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year. There was a round table discussion on the 24<sup>th</sup> at the Cadillac Lodge to continue with ideas to draw new and keep current members.
3. 9 out of 10 of the Lodges in our district exceeded the \$4.80 per member goal for Elks National Foundation. The Holland Elks raised \$5.61 per member.
4. Public Relations - They emphasized the importance of letting your members know of all the good things we do with charities. It's a good way to get the word out about the organization.
5. Ritual - The Elks holds a ritual competition that emphasizes perfecting the initiation ritual. Every year there are competitions to determine who represents Michigan at the National Convention. Because of CoVid and the lack of competitions, the previous year's winner - Traverse City - will be representing us at the National Convention this year. Wish them luck.
6. Houghton Higgins Lodge will be hosting an 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Toast competition and Flag Team Competition on May 8 for ER's and PER's.



## WHY BE A MEMBER

of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks?

**BECAUSE** We neither question one's religion, nor do we exclude anyone because of creed, race, ethnic origin, educational attainment, vocation, material status or physical stature. We measure character by what one is and does, not by titles or position. We do not seek to impose different beliefs in place of personal commitments to God, Family and Country, nor do we ask anyone to act in any manner contrary to the dictates of conscience. We do not permit religious or political differences to intrude into or have any effect upon fraternal deliberations at the local, district, state or national levels.

7. Newly Elected Officials – Randy Jackson – District Auditor, Amy Loftus – District Esquire.

8. Future Conventions – State Spring Convention in Sault Ste Marie – May 20-23; National Convention – Tampa, FL – July 4 through 7; Next District Meeting, 9/12/21 at Grand Haven Lodge.

Jim Rowland has T-shirts available to our District that read Ridin With Rowland. There are 3 styles available for \$15.00 each. A notice is posted on the bulletin board.

## “THE BEN FRANKLIN CHALLENGE”

As everyone is aware, this past year has been a challenge to all of us. Many businesses and clubs were forced to close due to State orders, causing some of them to permanently close their doors.

The Holland Elks as an organization made it through the past year and continues to work on recovering the impact we felt.

To help with our recovery, it was proposed by one of our members that we hold a fundraiser called “The Ben Franklin Challenge”, whereby members who wish to help with the recovery of our Lodge, can donate \$100 towards that recovery. The Challenge was voted on and approved to implement. When you donate, your name will be put on a

picture of a \$100 Dollar bill and displayed in the lodge. This will run through the end of May. Each person who chooses to participate in this challenge will have their name put in a drawing for \$100.00 of bar tokens – donated by a Fellow Member. Thanks to all of you who have already donated!!



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## ER Awards

One of the greatest honors I had as Exalted Ruler was to announce the annual Elks Citizen, Elks Volunteer and Elks Officer of the Year award winners. These awards are given to those Elks who demonstrated outstanding and exemplary service to lodge and or our community. The following are this year's award winners:

Elks citizen of the Year - Larry Brown for his on-going work with the American Red Cross. Since coming to the lodge, the Red Cross has exceeded blood donation goals and has presented the lodge with multiple recognition awards including one for being one of few locations open during COVID shutdown.

Elks Volunteer of the Year - Wayne Walton for his work with the Kitchen committee, volunteer bartending and lodge maintenance. As a member of the Kitchen committee, Wayne has donated countless hours to prepare and provide lodge meals each week. The money raised for these meals was then donated back to the lodge or lodge charity. After losing a bartender, Wayne was one of several members to step in to bartend. Finally, during our lodge shutdown, Wayne voluntarily continued lodge janitorial services as well as kitchen and bar maintenance.

Elks Officer of the Year - Bob DeVries for his dedication to the Elks organization and particularly to our lodge. In my opinion, this recognition is long over due. Bob has served as our lodge Chaplain, 3 years as our Exalted Ruler, 1 year as our state Vice Chair, 1 year as our State Vice President and state Auditor. He has also served as our lodge Lecturing Knight, maintained the lodge Facebook account and served on 7 or so lodge committees. His service to the lodge has been exemplary and well deserving of this award.

Congratulations to these three dedicated Elks members!  
Ernie Serrano - PER