

## Board of Directors

Open 5 Yr.  
Open 4 Yr.  
Jay Paff 3 Yr.  
Open 2 Yr.  
Bob Berg 1 Yr.



## 2021-2022 Officers

Open Leading Knight  
Joy Rogoski Loyal Knight  
Tom Derrie Lecturing Knight  
Open Secretary  
Open Treasurer  
Karen Shirek Chaplain  
Dan Bailey Inner Guard  
Bob Zueger Esquire  
Open Tiler

# The Voice

**Lodge #693 – February 2022**

(715) 423-1930

B. P. O. Elks, 430 West Jackson Street, P.O. Box 693

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

Leo Peter Rogoski, Exalted Ruler – (715) 459-8255

leothentsogreat2@gmail.com

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Anyone can catch your Eye..  
but it takes someone special  
to catch your Heart.

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**

# *Exalted Ruler Letter*

Hello Fellow Elks Members,

A few weeks ago, Joy and I visited the Wausau Elks Lodge. We had a delicious burger for dinner. There were 10/12 people sitting around the bar socializing like they probably do every day. I contributed money in the shake of the day pot, can't win with a pair of 2s. We felt very welcomed and pleased with the new friends that we made. I started thinking of how nice it would be if our members came down to the lodge just one day a month.

In December, the Scholarship Committee judged the applicants for Most Valuable Student (MVS) at the local level. We had six of our local high school seniors moved on to the district level this year, representing four of our high schools: Lincoln, Necedah, Nekoosa, and Port Edwards (see page 4 for the local winners' names). Also in December, the Hoop Shoot was held on the 11th with 25 attendees who had been whittled down from the original 800 competitors at the school level. The American Heroes Café, a gathering where our local veterans experience the camaraderie they knew so well when they were on active duty, meets every month here at the Lodge. If you are a veteran, please join this group of men and women who served our country in war and peace-time. Their next meeting at the Lodge is February 9th when the doors open at 7:30 a.m.

Our Lenten Fish Fry is coming up in March and we could use more volunteers to assist in preparing the meals. Easy work, no experience necessary. Call the Lodge if you are interested in helping. Working at these events is one of the ways that you make friends while supporting your lodge. Bring your family and friends to the Lodge for dinner during the Lenten season.

I look forward to sharing good times with you at the lodge this year.

*Leo "Pete" Rogoski*

Exalted Ruler



**Nomination of Officers  
7 pm Tuesday, February 1**

**Election of Officers  
7 pm Tuesday, February 15**



# February 2022 Lodge Events & Elk Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Dinner & Elk Member meeting 7 pm 	 6:30 pm Happy Birthday, Pete Droste		Fish Fry Fundraiser	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Couples Steak Night at the Lodge! 5:00 pm	 6:30 pm Happy Birthday, Marvin Krzykowski American Heroes Café 7:30am		Fish Fry Fundraiser	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Happy birthday, Ken Lesnick	Elk Ladies meeting 	Dinner/Elks BOD 5:30 pm Member Meeting 7 pm 	 6:30 pm	Happy birthday, Lance Pliml & Jim Vruwink	Fish Fry Fundraiser	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		Dinner at the Elks Happy birthday, Ed Theis	 6:30 pm	Happy birthday, John Seiwert	Fish Fry Fundraiser Happy birthday, Jeff Cegieski	
27	28					

Stop in and get your free birthday drink at the Lodge in February!





## *Elk Ladies President's Letter*

Hello, Elk Ladies!

We had another strong turnout for our January meeting despite Mother Nature's freezing temperatures! Thank you to Barb and Patti for a delicious dinner! February's committee will be Bridgette and Sue. We will be taking down the Christmas decorations on February 1st at 10:00 am, so this is just a friendly reminder of that. Hoping we'll go to lunch after! Don't forget to let Patti Miller know if you'll be helping with the Fish Fry this year!

Respectfully Submitted,

*Barbara Plowman*

Elk Ladies President

### Scholarship Committee News

**Most Valuable Students moving on to district!**

#### Boys:

Nathan Swensen – Nekoosa  
Brandon Swensen – Nekoosa  
Hudson Goodwin – Nekoosa

#### Girls:

Madelyn Hepp – Lincoln  
Kaitlyn E. Ard – Necedah  
Kailer L. Lyp—Port Edwards



### Hoop Shoot

#### 8-9 Girls:

1<sup>st</sup> - Zuri Wilson  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Alaina Anderson  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Aria Chialda

#### 8-9 Boys:

1<sup>st</sup> - Miles Brownlow  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Toryn Brandt  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Luke Slinkman

#### 10-11 Girls:

1<sup>st</sup> - Kennedy Konkol  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Brynleigh Young  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Hailey Hjoemann

#### 10-11 Boys

1<sup>st</sup> - Asher Feit  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Mason Crubel

*Congratulations!*



# *Lodge Updates*

## **Christmas Charity Projects 2021 Wrap-Up**

Congratulations and thanks to all who helped make our annual Christmas Tree and Basket charity programs a success story again in 2021.

We again obtained names of 60 area families referred by Wood County Head Start as being in need of help at Christmas. Trees from Stake's Tree Farm were delivered to 14 families on December 4<sup>th</sup> by the following volunteers: Jim and Zeke Kraft, Mike Spranger, Ken Haupt, Pete Rogoski, and Bob Berg.

On December 10<sup>th</sup> two truckloads of food were picked up, taken to the Lodge, and packed into the 60 baskets to be delivered the next day. Volunteers who helped with this work were Kyle Cronan, Barb Plowman, Steve Archibald, Pete Rogoski, and Bob Berg.

On December 11<sup>th</sup> another truckload of food was picked up and taken to the Lodge to complete the food baskets. Baskets were then grouped into their respective delivery routes and loaded into vehicles for delivery. By noon that day, 12 delivery teams had completed the task of driving to all 60 destinations. Weather did not favor us this year, and some delivery teams were unable to make it to the Lodge to participate. However, four teams volunteered to cover for them, each driving a second delivery route to finish off the project!

Members, friends, and families who helped with the completion of the project were Earl & Vivian Haefs, Tim & Barb Plowman, Tina & Curt Lamb, Justin & Amanda Rogers, Steve and Jackie Archinald, Dale & Karen Shirek, Jim & Zeke Kraft, Kyle Cronan, Bob Zueger, Daniel Russo, Merle Cochran, Karen Bures, Josh Hafenbredl, John Gerber, Scott Krug, Preston Bohn, Vaughn Kubisiak, Pete Rogoski, and Bob Berg.

Following the delivery, fellowship was shared at the Lodge with lunch supplied by Julie Berg, Mark & Lori Placek, Bridget Kenngott, Sue Weimer, Katie Knoll, and Tom Derrie of Derrie's FoodWorks.

Sorry if anyone was inadvertently overlooked in listing our volunteers, as you are all appreciated so much every year we conduct these projects. No way it could be done without help from all of you!

Bob Berg, Program Chair





## More Lodge Updates

### Jambalaya Cook Off

On Sunday, January 9th, 2022, we held our Jambalaya Cook Off at the Lodge. We had a good turnout and 6 different competitors. The top 3 places were: Pete Rogoski in 3rd, Mark Placek in 2nd, and Tom Derrie took home 1st Place with a Verde style spin on the classic.

We will be having a Sloppy Joe Competition coming up on March 20th, so get your recipes ready for a great way to kickoff Spring!!



### American Heroes Café Upcoming Events

- February 9<sup>th</sup> 0730-0930 Café
- Navy band at WR PAC 3PM Sunday March 6th  
FREE tickets available at the Café, a VFW meeting, at the Arts Council, or call Bill Haack @ (262) 496-3198.

Although tickets are free, we ask that you make sure someone fills the seats you are obtaining. *Please do not let the tickets go to waste.*



### Scouting News

The Lodge sponsors a local scouting troop that meets at the Lodge and whose members help out at various Lodge events as part of their required community involvement. This month they are holding a pancake breakfast at the Lodge to raise funds to cover camping expenses. Come down to the Lodge and have breakfast or pick up breakfast as a take away. The pancake breakfast is January 22, from 8-11 am.

### Lenten Fish Fry

Lenten fish fries begin on March 4, 2022. Your options are inside dining or take away meals. Please contact Patty Miller at 715-459-8664 or email her [pnjmill@gmail.com](mailto:pnjmill@gmail.com) if you can help out.



## *Grand Lodge News*

### **New program virtually links volunteers with veterans By Hannah Graber, ENVSC Programs Coordinator**

Each year in February, VA hospitals celebrate National Salute to Veterans week with special events to pay tribute and express appreciation to veterans. It is also a time when citizens are encouraged to become involved as volunteers and visit veterans in hospitals.

But with Covid restrictions, opportunities to get involved at hospitals have been limited. Elks volunteers have struggled with the inability to serve veterans in the same ways they usually do with meals and interactive events. Staff members for the Center for Development and Civic Engagement (formerly VA Voluntary Service) recognized that veterans have become even more isolated and decided to create a new program to address that problem.

Compassionate Contact Corps is a program that connects volunteers with veterans and facilitates socially distanced conversations on a regular basis. Clinicians give a “social prescription” to veterans who may benefit from these phone or video conversations. Volunteers are trained and carefully screened to be matched with veterans who share interests and experiences.

CDCE partnered with VA Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Caregiver Support, Whole Health, and others to create the training that volunteers must complete to participate in this program. Training topics include confidentiality, privacy, customer service, empathy, and boundaries. Volunteers do not provide clinical, spiritual, or financial advice to veterans or their caregivers.

Veterans who have participated in Compassionate Contact Corps so far have responded positively about their experiences. Over 80% of the veterans surveyed by VA said the regular

visits helped them to feel less lonely, and 77% said the experience increased their overall well-being. Volunteers also said they loved having this opportunity to connect with veterans.

Compassionate Contact Corps has already been initiated in several places across the country, and VA is gradually expanding to include more locations. Veterans who would like to be matched with a volunteer can ask a clinician or advocate for a referral to get started. Volunteers who want to get involved should contact their local VA to find out when training is available.

If your area doesn't have training scheduled for Compassionate Contact Corps yet, let VA staff know that you are interested in helping bring the program to your community. In the meantime, consider other ways to serve veterans at a distance in February. Lodges could sponsor a Super Bowl party, collaborate with a classroom or Scouting troop to create Valentine's Day cards for veterans, or initiate an Adopt-a-Veteran program in your Lodge.



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430 West Jackson Street  
P.O. Box 693  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495



*Happy  
Valentine's  
Day*



## **February 2022: The Voice of Lodge #693**

- Feb. 1 Elks member meeting: Dinner begins 5 pm; Meeting at 7 pm**
- Feb. 2 Bingo: Doors open 5 pm; game starts at 6:30 pm**
- Feb. 4 Fish Fry Fundraiser: Dinner begins at 5:00 pm**
- Feb. 8 Elks Steak "Date Night" Tuesday! Dinner begins at 5:00 pm**
- Feb. 9 Bingo: Doors open 5 pm; game starts at 6:30 pm**
- Feb. 11 Fish Fry Fundraiser: Dinner begins at 5:00 pm**
- Feb. 14 Elk Ladies dinner/meeting**
- Feb. 15 Board of Directors 5:30 pm; Lodge Meeting 7:00 pm; Initiation**
- Feb. 16 Bingo: Doors open 5 pm; game starts at 6:30 pm**
- Feb. 18 Fish Fry Fundraiser: Dinner begins at 5:00 pm**
- Feb. 22 Dinner at the Elks: Dinner begins at 5:00 pm**
- Feb. 23 Bingo: Doors open 5 pm; game starts at 6:30 pm**
- Feb. 25 Fish Fry Fundraiser: Dinner begins at 5:00 pm**