



# Flat Rock Elks Newsletter

January 2022

## Exalted Ruler Message

Members,

The New year has come and gone along with some great lodge events. Veterans Thanksgiving Dinner, Flag Retirement, Christmas Parties, No Kid without a Christmas, Memorial Service, 365, Quarter Mania, and Drag Queen Bingo. I cannot thank you enough if you attended, donated, or volunteered your time to these great events.

Our Lodge members and their families have suffered many losses this past year. In 2021 we lost 27 members and many of its extended family. We always try to do our best to reach out to those in need, but it is difficult with over 660 members. So, if you know of one of our members that have passed or are ill please contact the Lodge or one of our officers. Remember sickness and distress is always in order.

The Fish Fry Crew is in full swing, serving Downrivers best fish dinners. The fish fry is very important to our lodge, and I can't thank them enough for volunteering their time and efforts.

Many great events are upcoming. You can find out about these events in a number of ways.

1. Read the best Elks Newsletter in the country. OURS
2. Open your emails. They are informing you of upcoming events.
3. Visit the lounge and take note of the large message board on the south wall.
4. Look at flyers posted on the doors leading up to the hall.
5. Go to our Flat Rock Elks 1731 Web Page and check out the calendar.

If you are unaware of what is going on at our lodge it's not because we haven't tried to inform you. So, please check them out and come join the fun.

**Sincerely Yours,  
Brian Marvaso  
Exalted Ruler**



**Elks Care - Elks Share**



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## Secretary Message

The long winter season has started and the lodge is again starting several events. I want to thank everyone who attended the Memorial Service for our departed members. This is a very special service which is done every year. If you get a chance attend next year. We continue to get new members joining our lodge and enjoying all we have to offer. Football every weekend, fish fry's, kids and adult Christmas parties, euchre, weekly soup specials, and much more. We have 27 delinquent members at this time. It would be nice to show 0. We issued scholarships to 6 students again this year. This is just one of the great things our lodge does for the downriver community. I will send the new dues notices in the next few weeks. Please continue to support our great lodge. I hope everyone is well and if you have changes to your address, phone number or email address please contact me.

Mike Wrobel  
Lodge Secretary

Just 59 Days until "SPRING"

\*\*\*\*\*

## Vets Dinner & Flag Retirement

November 14th we held our annual Thanksgiving dinner for veterans and the annual Flag retirement ceremony that followed. We had 35 Veterans attend the dinner, all had a good time.

90 flags were retired properly, with all being given by members of the lodge. A big thank you to all the helpers who cooked and served the dinner and to all that donated food for the event.



Your Veterans Committee  
Pat Strickland PER,  
Veterans Chairman



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## No Kids without a Christmas

We would like to thank everyone that made The No Kids Without a Christmas project such a success again this year. There are literally hundred's of people that play some kind role in helping to create the magic that this annual event provides every year to families in need - golfers, sponsors, donors, volunteers, the caterer, Wesburn Golf & Country Club, the sign maker, Flat Rock Meijer, shoppers, shoppers and more shoppers.....the list goes on and on! Hopefully we have created something that makes everyone proud to be a part of such a special community.

This year we were able to provide a Christmas for 65 children from 27 families. These families came from several downriver communities (Flat Rock, Woodhaven, Huron, Brownstown and Southgate). Since we started this journey in 2017, we have been able to provide a Christmas for 193 children from 78 families!

This year, we were also able to make a significant contribution towards a service dog for Emery, a 2 year old girl who suffers from a rare genetic mutation causing epilepsy, developmental delay and learning disabilities. She has seizures sometimes occurring hundreds of times per day. The service dog will be trained to sense and warn of seizures before they happen so that proper precautions can be taken and help to improve Emery's and her family's quality of life. The total cost to train and provide the dog to the family is between \$40,000 - \$60,000 and takes around 2.0 - 2.5 years after the fundraising is complete. We are happy to report that the family has been accepted into the program and will receive the service dog sometime in 2024! This may be the most special Christmas gift that we have been able to help with and makes everything that we do well worth the efforts!



**2 Year Old Emery**

Again, thank you to everyone for everything that you do to make this such a great program! Based on the smiles on those kids faces after we shopped, I think that they appreciate what each of you do for them too!

**Chris Wooten**

**WOW!**  
**Thank You All!**



Wesburn Golf & Country Club  
Golfers  
Donors  
Flat Rock Meijer  
Shoppers  
Sponsors  
The Sign Maker  
Volunteers  
The Caterer  
Shoppers  
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## 365 Special Projects Dinner - Dance



On January 15<sup>th</sup> we had the 365 Dinner Dance. Even though we did not receive a lot of attendees we still had a ton of fun with the 50 we had. There were plenty of raffles with about 40 baskets and everyone had a chance to win. We also had our 365 tie raffled off and congratulations to the Elamon's, Robinson's, and the Recker's for making the highest bid for the tie. Everyone had a fun time and loved having our band there. Tequila Mockingbird did such an amazing job I am looking forward to seeing them for our Inaugural Ball in April. I would just like to thank everyone who helped out, donated, and came to have a fun time. Special thanks sent out to our ER Brian Marvaso and George Polhemus for putting their money together and paying for our band.

I would like to thank everyone that attended and who donated baskets for raffles. We'll be able to donate over \$2,500 to 365 Special Projects for the Special Needs Children. Hope to see you all at our next big event.

**Marissa Strickland**  
Leading Knight



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## Lodge Activities

On November 13<sup>th</sup> the hall was filled with laughter as the broads were back for another round of Drag Queen Bingo. With all the social distancing we have been dealing with for so long, timing was perfect and folks were ready to escape for a night out with friends and have some fun! Thanks to all who attended!



Next up – plans are in the works for another Reverse Raffle. Stay tuned for details.

As with all of our events, they cannot be successful without volunteers, help promoting the events, and participation. Hundreds of Elk hours are donated for events each year. Your time and generosity are much appreciated!



Brenda S

Got ideas, suggestions or feedback?

Drop me a note in our suggestion box.

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## *How to help support your Lodge*

Members all,

Still have bottles and cans laying around the house and garage that you need to get rid of?

Why not help out your Flat Rock Elks Lodge by donating them to the Elk's Bottle Drive.

Please bring your clean returnable deposit bottles and cans in plastic trash bags and leave them on the back deck.

Thank you in advance for your donation that helps to support our lodge.....







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Flat Rock Elk Members,

Greetings from the North Pole and Santa's Village ! Mrs. Claus and myself and all Santa's helpers want to say a special thank-you for bringing your Children and Grandchildren to the annual Elk's Christmas Party. Its wonderful to see the magic in the Kids eyes and the special feeling of Christmas that only they can bring. It's one of the highlights of our year and we were so happy and proud to be able to share in it. This is one of the many outstanding benefits of being a member and a tradition that's loved by all. Hopefully this is a part of your family's Holiday Season. Thanks for bringing up the next generation of Elks and teaching them that Elks Care and Elks Share as they grow up. Have a great year!

Regards,

Santa and Mrs. Claus



It was really great to have the Children back at the Elks this year for the Children's Christmas Party. The next few pages will be loaded with pictures of Children doing crafts and visiting with Santa Claus. Santa visited with about 100 Children this year making it a fun day for all. I would like to send out a special **"THANK YOU"** to Hillery, her two daughters Ryleigh and Kamryn for helping with all the crafts, Jerry Kupser and Ken Cesta for their kitchen help, Kim Thornberry for Tags and organization and all that came down to help wrap presents.

**Jeff Weiler – Lecturing Knight**

**Elks Care - Elks Share**





# Flat Rock Elks Newsletter

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## Christmas at the Elks Crafts



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# Flat Rock Elks Newsletter

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## Christmas at the Elks



## Families



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# Flat Rock Elks Newsletter

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## Christmas at the Elks



## Families



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# Flat Rock Elks Newsletter

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## Elkady's Christmas







# Flat Rock Elks Newsletter

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## Elk's Adult Grinchmas Party



Can you find Mr. Grinch?







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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Members All,

We hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and Holiday Season. Like all of you, your Lodges Trustees and Board of Directors are looking forward to seeing this difficult time through and having better days ahead. We certainly encourage you to be a part of all that your lodge has to offer both in terms of fun and fellowship, but even more importantly all the good works we do for Vets, 365 Special Needs Children, Elks National Foundation and so much more. As you plan your year, make sure to make a point of including Lodge events as a part of your life.

As you may know this year, 2022, marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Lodge which is a wonderful milestone. Our Building even with prior planning and preventative maintenance is going to have unforeseen repairs, major and minor. As your Trustees we take this seriously and make every effort to act as needed to keep costs manageable, necessary and avoid the 'kicking the can down the road' approach.

December saw some additional and necessary plumbing work in addition to what was completed earlier in 2021. Fort Street Plumbing was hired to clean up and repair/ reline drains with an epoxy lining to correct what was failing. This process avoided a very major, expensive and disruptive replacement which would have included digging and other considerations. They did a very professional and thorough job with minimal disruptions to the membership. Big thanks to Treasurer, Big Al Kowalewski, for taking the time to help research this technique and share his expertise.

You may have noticed the new bright and clear illumination of your Lodge building and parking area. Fellow member Jerry Kupser, a lighting expert, volunteered his services to plan and replace our outdated exterior building lighting. This not only will save considerable money in the long run on our Utility bill but is superior to what we had. The LED bulbs last 12 plus years on average and are much clearer and brighter. Jerry has some additional work to be completed closer to Spring. This saved the Lodge considerable monies! Please thank Jerry and his assistants, PER Kenny Cesta and Lecturing Knight Jeff Weiler, for volunteering in the cold weather for everyone's benefit. When the Building is painted in the Spring it will help showcase Elk pride to our community.

Remember Membership meetings are held the first and third Wednesday at 7.30 pm. This is where official Lodge business is conducted, and you can ask questions, participate and get the real story firsthand. Trustee/ Board meetings the second Wednesday at 7.30 pm.

**Fraternally Yours,  
Flat Rock Elks Trustee's  
Jeff Click PER  
Jeff Recker PER  
Dave Scicluna  
Ed Nuttmann  
Keith Diedrich**



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## Flat Rock Elks Memorial Service

On December 5th we held our Annual Memorial Ceremony in honor of our departed members. In recognition during the ceremony of 118 past members 27 were lost during this past year. We had a great turn-out of family and friends for the Memorial Service and dinner. None of this would be possible without the help of all that donated their time and dishes for the event.



**My sincere thanks for all your help.**

**Respectfully**

**Tony Schembri**

**Esteemed Loyal Knight**



\*\*\*\*\*

## Sickness and Distress

Passing of an Elk Member should be reported to the Leading Knight. If a family would like to have other members know of a sickness or death of a member a notification can be emailed to members upon request. Remember Sickness and Distress is always in order.

Contact Your Leading Knight:

Marissa Strickland 734-288-1046 or [marissastrickland58@gmail.com](mailto:marissastrickland58@gmail.com)

You may also contact Jim Elamon at 734-672-5332

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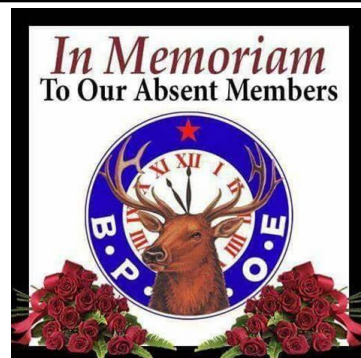


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## Departed Members since the 2020 Memorial Service

Since we were not allowed to conduct our 2021 Annual Memorial Service due to Covid Restrictions, here are the names of our 27 Members who have passed into the Light which is beyond the Valley of the Shadows of Death since April 1, 2020.



Karen VanHorn  
John Mayer  
Virgil J. Hinzmann  
Ervin Doede  
Keith Shulaw  
John Ciantar

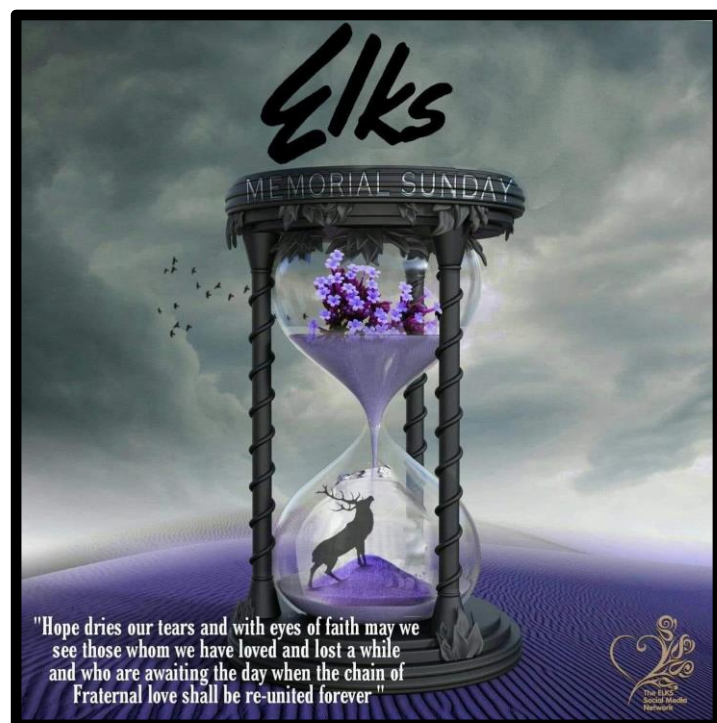
Edward Taylor  
Eugene E. Machinski  
Ronald G. Klingel  
Marilyn Robinson  
Thomas Parker Sr  
Steven Pecherski

Kenneth Lavelly  
Robert Barton  
Stanley Fadoir  
Elaine Worley  
Robert Cousino P.E.R.  
Donald Bloomfield

Robert E. Fater  
Daniel A. Bryant  
Henry C. Gilstorf  
George W. Satterley  
Jerry Baggett  
Neil Keller

The places that have known them, shall know them no more. But their "Virtues" are written upon the  
**"Tablets of Love and Memory".**

**Bernie Schaller P.E.R.**  
**Lodge Chaplain**



## **Fernando "Fred" Leitao**

Born: January 4, 1932

Initiated: September 21, 1956

Life Member: December 6, 1996

66 Years Elk Member

Died: December 16, 2021

## **Robert Reiser**

Born: September 6, 1956

Initiated: May 15, 1991

Died: December 2, 2021

## **Sydney Kemp**

Born: November 19, 1950

Initiated: December 2, 2009

Died: November 23, 2021

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## ELK HISTORY YOU MAY NOT KNOW



The Order of Elks was formally organized February 16, 1868, in the City of New York. Its full corporate name is "Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America." Its declared purposes are to practice its four cardinal virtues, Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; and to cultivate good fellowship.

The animal from which the Order took its name was chosen because a number of its attributes were deemed typical of those to be cultivated by members of the fraternity. The elk is distinctively an American animal. It habitually lives in herds. The largest of our native quadrupeds, it is yet fleet of foot and graceful in movement. It is quick and keen of perception; and while it is usually gentle and even timorous, it is strong and valiant in defense of its own.

A representation of the majestic head of the male, with its spreading antlers, was adopted as the first badge of the Order; and is still the most conspicuous element of its copyrighted; fraternal emblem.

\*\*\*\*\*



Welcome our New Members that were initiated into our order of the Flat Rock Elks in the month of December.

Paul Provencal  
Tony Bitner  
Matt Otter

John Christie  
Anne Dodt Seto

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The 25th Flat Rock Elks Wild Game Dinner will be held on January 30, 2022. As we all know, this Great Event is only possible with all the Wild Game and Fish that you Hunters and Fisherman donate. So make sure that you sharpen your Hooks, Shoot straight so that you can donate. Your Donation will get you Tickets to the Event. We want it to be the "Best One Ever". So contact Bernie Schaller at 734-552-1411 to donate or get Information. Also Tickets will be available in December, so they will make great "Christmas Presents"!

## WILD GAME DINNER

Sunday  
Jan 30<sup>th</sup>

Open at Noon  
CASH BAR

There  
Will  
Also Be  
Firearms  
Drawings!



Ticket Includes...  
SOUVENIR  
DOOR PRIZE & ENTRY  
FOR CABELA'S  
\$150, \$100, \$50 GIFT CERTIF.

\$40

TO DONATE  
GAME OR  
VOLUNTEER  
TO HELP...  
CALL BERNIE  
734-  
552-1411

All Proceeds Go To Flat Rock Elks





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## Drive-Thru Dinners at the Elks

Our Famous Fish Fry and Shrimp Dinners are not just for Lent! Twice a month from February thru Good Friday our dedicated membership and crew provide **hot, fresh and wonderful** meals from the safety and comfort of your heated vehicle. There's a reason we have served well over 50,000 dinners in the past 14 years.

If you have not? **WHY** not try and see for yourself? What makes it good?

- Dedication and attention to detail by the Fish Fry crew volunteers
- Attention to sanitation and food safety
- Clean and fresh oil
- Hand Battered Atlantic Cod loin and Pacific Ocean jumbo shrimp
- Homemade Coleslaw with our special dressing
- Golden and seasoned Idaho French Fries... never limp and soggy
- Freshly baked dinner rolls from Delray Bakery
- Top quality condiments
- Generous portions cooked fresh from the first dinner to the last.
- Well organized and easy to purchase

We think if you try it once you will be back. And remember it's a major part of helping to keep our lodge strong so we keep doing our good works. If you would like to help, please let us know, we're always looking for dedicated volunteers.

Hope to see you and remember to tell friends and family.

Fraternally yours,

**Elks Care - Elks Share**

Your Flat Rock Elks Fish Crew!



### **Future Fish Fry Dates**

Feb 4<sup>th</sup>  
Feb 18<sup>th</sup>  
Mar 4<sup>th</sup>  
Mar 18<sup>th</sup>  
Apr 1<sup>st</sup>  
Apr 15<sup>th</sup>





# Flat Rock Elks

**Drive-Thru**

**Carry-Out Dinners**

**Friday – February 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Future Fish  
Fry Dates**

**Feb 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Feb 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Mar 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Mar 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Apr 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Apr 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Your Choice of Shrimp or Cod Dinners  
Dinners Served 4:00pm-6:30pm**

**"Keeping Downriver Elk Fish Fry's Great Since 2008"**

**Shrimp Dinner  
\$14.00**

**PUBLIC WELCOME**

**Cod Dinner  
\$13.00**

**Dinners Include:  
Cole Slaw, Golden  
French Fries,  
Hush Puppy  
Dinner Roll  
Condiments**

**Family Style Shrimp \$52**

**Save \$4.00**

**Family Style Cod \$48**

**Buy a Family Style Dinner Style**

**Family Style Dinners will feed a family of 4 or more people.**

**Dinners include 12 pieces of Cod or 28 Shrimp,**

**A pound of Golden French Fries, Cole Slaw & Hush Puppies,  
Dinner Rolls and Condiments**

Proceeds help support our Flat Rock Elks to continue our Community Service to Veteran Programs, ARC & Jo-Brighton Special Athletes, MI Cookie Project, Penrickton Center for the Blind, Children with Hair Loss, Stepping Stones, Monroe ISD, coordinate Special Athletes Games with four local High Schools and more, Etc..

**26917 Telegraph Rd. Flat Rock, MI 48134**

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## At the Elks on Thursdays

Starting Thursday February 3<sup>rd</sup> for eight weeks the Flat Rock Elks will be holding an "Open Cornhole Night". This will be open to Elk members and their guest Thursday nights at 6:00 pm lasting for eight consecutive weeks until end of March. You'll play with a different player each week and the cost will be \$10 per player each week.



Registration  
Starts at 5:30 pm  
Bags fly at 6:15 pm

Cash Prizes & Buckets of Beer

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For any questions or additional information contact Jamie Vajen or Mo at the Elks





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## Flat Rock Elk's (PER) Muskrat Dinner Sunday February 20, 2022



Dinner will be served starting at

**Noon to 4:00 pm**

or until all the Muskrat is gone.

\*\*\*\*\*

**\$15.00** All you can eat Muskrat,

Baked Potato, Salad, Corn, Bread and Butter

\*\*\*\*\*

**\$8.00** All you can eat Spaghetti w/ Meat sauce  
( not muskrat ) Corn, Salad, Bread and Butter

Tickets only available at the door (Dessert not included)

Pop's  
Corner

Visit the Flat Rock Elks Facebook page and hit the "LIKE" button:  
[www.facebook.com/flatrockelks1731](https://www.facebook.com/flatrockelks1731) and Twitter Account @flatrocktweet

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