



PORTAGE, WISCONSIN

A NONPROFIT FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION

**PORTAGE ELKS  
LODGE #675  
BULLETIN -  
FEBRUARY 2024**

## Save the Date – Arbor Day Fundraiser

The Arbor Day committee is working on baskets for the upcoming fundraiser in April. Last year's event was a fun success and we've made a goal of raising even more funds this year to plant additional trees in Portage Parks, like this one (and three others) which were planted at Collipp-Worden Park.



The baskets will be tree (and tree-based product) themed, and we'll have more information soon about suggested themes or specific items to be included. If you want to help by purchasing just an item or two to add to a basket, we would be happy to give you suggestions.

If you're interested in donating a basket or an item for our fundraiser, please contact Pamela Byrd at 608-445-1916 or deliver your basket/item to the lodge, indicating it's for the Arbor Day fundraiser.

We'll have the baskets on display at the lodge April 15-26. The Lodge is open Tuesday – Friday at 4 PM.

Please mark your calendars now for this Arbor Day Event April 26th, and start spreading the word. This is a great event to invite your friends to!

Further details will be available in the March newsletter. Stay tuned!

## A Note from the Events and Activities Committee

A new year is underway and Elks Lodge #675 is on the verge of more caring, sharing, serving and...funning. Pardon the poor grammar but I had to try to make that work!

There is never a shortage of events and activities available for our members to participate in. And new ideas are being talked about all the time. There is a job...a role...a need... for everyone to fill, whether you're new to the organization or a long-time member.

The Events and Activities Committee helps to support traditional events hosted by our Lodge, as well as works to facilitate new ideas. How can we support our local Veterans organizations in meaningful ways? How can we make a difference in the lives of kids and families who face so many challenges? How can we encourage and motivate the future leaders of our community? How can we get to know each other better and have fun together?

The possibilities are endless and the Events and Activities Committee is excited to come together to discuss, plan, implement and promote. And we would love to have you join us! There is so much we can do together to fulfill our commitment to make our community a better place to live.

**Regular meetings are held at 6:00 pm prior to the first Lodge meeting of every month.** Additional meetings might be randomly scheduled if there's a need. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 13. Come check it out and stay for the Lodge meeting at 7:00 pm!

ANYONE can come to a meeting and join in. You don't need to "officially" commit to being a committee member and you aren't required to come to every meeting or participate in every event or activity. If there's a particular event you're interested in, join us. If you want to ask questions, join us. If you want to make a random suggestion or two, join us. Our success as a lodge depends on the time and talents and passion of each of us. We all have something to share.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you've got questions. I can be reached at [lisamcook19@yahoo.com](mailto:lisamcook19@yahoo.com) or 608.697.1714.

In Brotherly Love,  
Lisa Cook, Committee Chair

# Exalted Ruler's Message



**Jason Doro**  
**Exalted Ruler**

Happy February my fellow Elks! We are neck deep in winter but the warmth of friendship and fellowship is keeping me going (along with the occasional Manhattan). The days are getting longer and, for today, the temps have ticked up a hair. It is strange to hear myself say I am glad it is only freezing. My dogs are happy, too. They definitely have cabin fever but I have to drag them outside to do their business. No one (myself included) goes out unless forced to. At least I do not have to worry about them running away! I will open the door and they just stare at me like I am crazy.

Crazy like those snowmobilers that zip around the woods by my house. I am glad they finally have some snow to enjoy. It really looks like a lot of fun but I enjoy my warmth. The kind of warmth you have in a heated ice fishing shack. Now that is my kind of winter sport! Nope, you won't find me outside much these days. But you will find me at the upcoming Elks Winter Conference in Green Bay. Talk about warm and inviting. Stepping into the hospitality room is like walking into a family reunion. It is always great to see the old familiar faces. If you want to expand your knowledge of Elkdom, learn new ways to contribute and share, and network or make new friends, I recommend going! You can get your own room or double up. And you will always come away feeling energized. Let me know if you are interested since we often carpool together.

I want to say thank-you to everyone who came out for our Packer parties. Folks really stepped up and made great dishes, great snacks, and great companions! The apple pie was amazing (I think the Packers could have scored more) and I can still hear Red leading us in "Go! Pack! Go!" Unfortunately our run is over but the memories are still alive.

Winter can be tough on folks. The short days, sloppy roads, and blustery weather keep some folks from getting out much. If you have not seen a fellow Elk in a while, take the time to call them or drop them a line. Let them know we are still here and thinking of them. Though we help the whole community, we are here to help each other first and foremost. If there is anything that your fellow Elks can help you with, please do not be too ashamed, proud, or stubborn to ask.

## Elks Care Elks Share!

*The saying "Give Credit Where Credit is Due" applies here. In January, a fabulous Steak Fry Dinner was held. Everyone raved about the meal. The only disheartening thing about the evening was there were 12 no-shows. Those that had signed up and didn't participate in the meal. Also the Fish Frys once a month are also a smash hit. I would like to name all the volunteers, but I might miss someone. There are a host of Elks and significant others that have worked feverishly to put on these activities. Thank you all!*

PER, H. Paul O'Brien

## February Meetings

Monday, 2/12 Board of Directors 6:00

Tuesday, 2/13 Lodge Meeting 7:00

Tuesday, 2/27 Lodge Meeting 7:00

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Published Monthly

### 2023-2024 LODGE OFFICERS

Jason Doro .....	Exalted Ruler
Craig Rothenburger .....	Leading Knight
Darrell Kapp .....	Loyal Knight
Lisa Holmes .....	Lecturing Knight
Traci Rothenburger .....	Secretary
Brad Cook .....	Treasurer
Larry Luecht .....	Esquire
Al McMahon .....	Inner Guard
Suzanne Turner .....	Tiler
Pam Byrd .....	Chaplain

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# Leading Knight's Message

Happy February Elks family.

Well we didn't have a white Christmas but winter has definitely arrived. Two big snow storms on January 9th and 12th dumped over a foot of snow between the two storms gave me a sore back from shoveling. I would like to thank those who cleared the snow at the lodge. Jason and I shoveled Tuesday. Darrell, Angie and the kids, Larry L., Terry B. and Brad Cook shoveled multiple times Friday and Saturday. If I missed anyone that shoveled please except my apologies and let me know. Your help was and is greatly appreciated. Then right after the snow the bitter cold came in and I really didn't care for that much.

The Fish Fry on the 12th even with the snow storm went fairly well, we even added \$105 to the ENF with a 50/50 raffle. A BIG thank you all that braved the weather, guests that came to eat and the staff for all your help making this run smoothly. I look forward to seeing everyone February 9th for the next fish fry, hopefully the weather will cooperate, fingers crossed.

If there is anyone who would like to volunteer for a lodge committee or any events please let one of the officers know. \*Please attend the Tuesday February 27th meeting to vote on your 2024-2025 slate of officers.\*

## Elks Care Elks Share.

Fraternally,  
Craig Rothenburger

### Happy February Birthdays To...

Edward C Schams.....	02 02
Amanda Wegh.....	02 04
Fred A Galley.....	02 04
George Thornton.....	02 06
Peter R Eulberg.....	02 07
Dawn Nelson.....	02 07
David Green.....	02 08
Janet Griffin.....	02 08
John R Miller.....	02 08
Lon S Chester.....	02 10
Kenneth Moniski.....	02 11
Patrick J Dixon.....	02 12
Traci Rothenburger.....	02 14
Pamela Byrd.....	02 19
Bob Viking.....	02 21

# Secretaries Corner

Good Day to all of you.

A couple of updates from me on notable things taking place this month.

You should have received your renewal statement in the mail. Even if you have elected to Dimit after this year, you will have received one. The renewals come from Grand Lodge and are something that I am not able to turn on or off.

With that being stated, remember if you are having any difficulties, financial or otherwise, please do not hesitate to contact me, the Exalted Ruler or Leading Knight. We are here to help. One of our stations is Charity. Elks are to take care of their own in need. The members are important, members are what makes the lodge exist. Without members, the lodge wouldn't exist.

There will be the election of the 24/25 slate of officers in February as well as the PER's will be running a regular meeting. This would be a great time for all to come and meet your new officers and reacquaint with past officers and our PER's.

The second Friday of the month is the fish fry except for June, July and August. We will have breakfast at the lodge on February 18th, starting at 9:00 AM. If this goes well it might become an ongoing thing.

Remember the lodge is what you make it, we the people are the lodge, We Are The Elks. Come on in, doors are open from 4 PM – till close Tuesday Friday.

Hope to see you soon.







**Friday, February 9 ~ Fish Fry**



**Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks**



# ANTLERS PROGRAM

**Charity & Service**



**Respect for Home & Family**



**Love of Country**



**Leadership**

## **ELKS & ANTLERS**

The Antlers program is supervised by an adult Advisory Council who provides guidance for the officers and members of the group. The Advisory Council consists of Elks Members who serve as mentors and foster a safe environment for the youth. The Advisory Council is not intended to run the organization but to provide direction and encouragement to keep the young people on track.

Parental involvement is also welcome, as the success of the Antlers Lodge is closely tied to reinforcement of good character at home, at the Lodge, and at school.

The Antlers will meet at the Elks Lodge on either a weekly or semi-monthly basis, and parents are encouraged to attend the meetings.

The Antlers will often assist or participate in many Elks functions, including Flag Day services, Americanism projects, Drug Awareness programs, Hoop Shoot, and Soccer Shoot. They will also spearhead their own projects, which may include supporting special needs children, food pantries, and local charities. Antlers also can participate in their Elks Lodge's own Community Projects.

The Elks and Antlers both share the same common goals of supporting our communities as well as each other.

For more information on the  
Antlers Program, visit us at:

[elks.org/grandlodge/activities/antlers.cfm](http://elks.org/grandlodge/activities/antlers.cfm)

**Elks Care — Elks Share**



# SAVE THE DATE

Sunday,  
July 21st

**GATES OPEN: 12:05 PM**

**FIRST PITCH: 1:05 PM**

## Portage Elks Lodge

**at the Duck Pond!**

**More Details To Follow!**

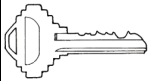


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# February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Fish Fry	10
11 	12 6 pm BOD	13 6 pm Activities & Events Meeting 7 pm Lodge Meeting	14	15	16 State Conference Green Bay	17
18 Lodge Open for Breakfast 9:00 AM State Conference Green Bay	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 7 pm Lodge Meeting	28	29 		

# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Fish Fry	9
10	11 6 pm BOD	12 6 pm Activities & Events Meeting 7 pm Lodge Meeting	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Installation of Officers Night
24	25	26 7pm Lodge Meeting	27	28	29	30

## Shop With a Cop Event

Portage Elks Lodge #675 has supported the Columbia County Sheriff's Office Shop with a Cop in the past but, for a variety of reasons, our participation has dwindled over the last few years. This event has been hosted by the Sheriff's Office for many years and, as an employee there, I have been truly honored to participate. Local kids are paired with law enforcement officers and other personnel and they get to go shopping for Christmas presents for their family members. It's super fun, but also incredibly impactful. For some families, this is \*the\* only way they are able to make Christmas presents happen. As a newish Elks member, it was important to me to get the Elks involved again with this event. I brought it up at the Events and Activities Committee and the other members were immediately on-board and excited to make it happen. I cannot express my gratitude enough to the wonderful folks who shared their time and their big hearts to ensure so many kids had a great time that day. Big thanks to Haley, Lisa, Ken, Pam, Chris, Jason, and Larry!

They helped to decorate the rooms to make them festive for the kids. They set up a cookie decorating station,



which was a big hit! They helped kids wrap presents. They offered smiles and jokes and showed those kids there are super nice people in the community who want to spend time with them. There's no way to quantify that! We are already looking forward to next Christmas and how we can help to make this wonderful event even better. If this sounds like something you want to know more about...come join us for an Events and Activities Committee meeting. :-)

In Brotherly Love,  
Lisa Cook