



The Benevolent Protective Order of Elks

"A Fraternal Organization"

PRIDE OF 688

VOLUME 72 NUMBER 4

April 2024

Brothers and sisters of Elkdom,

I stand before you today with a deep sense of honor as I take on the role of Exalted Ruler of our lodge. I am truly grateful for the trust and confidence you have placed in me, and I am committed to upholding the values and traditions that make our lodge a special place for all of us.

As your new Exalted Ruler, I am dedicated to serving our members and our community with integrity, compassion, and respect. I believe in the power of teamwork and collaboration, and I look forward to working alongside each and every one of you to continue the important work that our lodge does.

Together, we have the opportunity to make a positive impact, to support one another, and to promote the principles of charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity that are at the core of our organization. I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead, and I am confident that with our collective efforts, we can achieve great things.

I invite you all to join me on this journey, to share your ideas, your passion, and your energy as we strive to make our lodge an even stronger and more vibrant community. Together, we can honor the past, celebrate the present, and build a better future for all who are a part of our lodge.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Exalted Ruler. I am here to listen, to support, and to lead with dedication

Respectfully yours,
Exalted Ruler
Luisa Ion

A SPECIAL NOTE:

Dear Past Exalted Ruler Nicholas Lange,

I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for your exceptional leadership and dedication during your term as Exalted Ruler. Your tireless efforts, unwavering commitment, and vision have truly made a positive impact on our lodge and the community.

Your leadership has inspired us all and your hard work has not gone unnoticed. The initiatives you spearheaded, the guidance you provided, and the example you set have helped set a strong foundation for our lodge's continued success.

We are truly grateful for the time, energy, and heart that you have invested in serving as our Exalted Ruler. Your contributions have made a lasting difference, and we are thankful for the positive changes you have brought about during your term.

Thank you once again for your outstanding service and leadership. We are proud to have had you as our Exalted Ruler, and we look forward to continuing to build on the legacy you have created.

With sincere appreciation,
Luisa Ion
Exalted Ruler

WELCOME NEW OFFICERS!

We extend a warm welcome to our 2024-25 newly elected officers. Luisa Ion moves from Esteemed Leading Knight to Exalted Ruler. Erik Hintze moves from Esteemed Lecturing Knight to Esteemed Leading Knight. Beth Goethel remains as Inner Guard, Andy Larson remains as Esquire, and Craig Giese returns as Chaplain. Anna Lange moves from Tiler to the position of Lodge Secretary. Jason Snyder is our newly elected Esteemed Loyal Knight. Jason brings with him excellent organizational and managerial skills as he takes on this office. His father, Tom, passed away this past year and was a member of our Lodge for many years. Jason's mother, Charlotte, also became a member of #688 this past year and has taken on active roles. She will serve as Tiler this year. Jason's wife, Kristy Kieffer, has been elected to the seat of Treasurer. Kristy has years of experience in Accounting and will be a wonderful addition to this excellent slate of officers. One more "newbie" to the slate is Joe Weis, who will serve at Esteemed Lecturing Knight. Joe is currently retired but spent a career in management. We are blessed to have such a wonderful group of leaders on board for this new year! May we surround them all with encouragement and dedication to fulfilling our mission in spreading the principles of the B.P.O.E.

2023-24 LODGE OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler:	Luisa Ion
Esteemed Leading Knight:	Erik Hintze
Esteemed Loyal Knight:	Jason Snyder
Esteemed Lecturing Knight:	Joe Weis
Treasurer:	Kristy Snyder
Secretary:	Anna Lange
Inner Guard:	Beth Goethel
Tiler:	Charlotte Snyder
Esquire:	Andy Larson
Chaplain:	Craig Giese

GOVERNING BOARD

Luisa Ion • Erik Hintze
Jason Snyder • Joe Weis
Kristy Snyder • Anna Lange
Tony Kieffer • Miguel Burgos • Nick Lange

TRUSTEES

TONY KIEFFER • MIGUEL BURGOS • NICK LANGE

DISTRICT DEPUTY CENTRAL DISTRICT

RICK MILLER

CLUB MANAGEMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees operates the management functions of the Club. They are responsible for oversight, direction, and supervision of all club employees. This encompasses activities of food service, beverage service, hall rental, as well as other club activities that may arise from time to time. Comments regarding the Club management should be directed to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

If you would like to meet with the Board of Trustees, please make arrangements prior to the Trustee meetings so that time may be allotted for your discussion. Board meetings are open to all members, unless otherwise required by subjects that mandate a closed session.

PAST EXALTED RULERS

Baker, Gary	Larson, Andy
Giese, Craig	Messer, James
Greenwood, Robert	Meyer, Bruce
Francisco, James	Miller, Rick
Hoppe, Michael	Standiford, Brian
Howard, Sammy	Wedekind, Phil
Kieffer, Tony	Wickus, Harold
Lange, Nick	Wiese, Bill

2024-25 PER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT CRAIG GIESE
VICE PRESIDENT BOB GREENWOOD
SECRETARY/TREASURER SAM HOWARD

Lodge meets on the first and third Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. except in July and August when sessions are held only once per month as noted in the Bulletin and in December only one session on the first Tuesday of the month.

LADIES AUXILIARY PRESIDENT
SHERRY BALDWIN

E-mail: barabooelkslodge688@gmail.com

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APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

01 Marsha Chapman	20 Keith Bidne
02 Barb Giese	22 Neil Astle
08 Mike Hoppe	27 Bryant Hazard
12 Stanley Skupien	27 Daniel Hiller
13 Nathan Genovese	27 Nick Lange
15 Patrick Terry	27 Bruce Jackson
17 Ken Opatik	28 Dan Zurawski
18 Craig Giese	

Stop in for your free Birthday Drink during your birthday month!



SPECIAL ELKS AWARDS

Exalted Ruler, Nick Lange presented special awards to some very deserving members at the last Lodge meeting of his tenure on March 19, 2024. Bob Kieffer was presented the Elk of the Year Award. Officer of the Year was presented to Tony Kieffer. Special Grand Lodge Commendations were presented to Tom Genovese and Terry Blake for their incredible service to the Lodge. Nick also presented special plaques to Karen Schulze, Kathy Francisco, Sam Howard, and Rick Miller who are all "retiring" from multiple years of service to the Lodge as officers. Most of all, many thanks to Nicholas Lange, who led our Lodge this past year with integrity, determination to serve our community, and assurance that we are the B.P.O.E. Thank you, Nick, for your stellar performance as our Exalted Ruler for 2023-24!

BARABOO ELKS TRIVIA:

In March, we asked: What does the Star of Fidelity symbolize during our meetings?
Here is the answer:

The guiding light

By STEVEN A. DAVIS, Committee Member

SPECIAL NEEDS PROM

On March 2, 2024, we held our "Star Light, Star Bright!" prom for individuals with Special Needs. Funded by our Beacon Grant from the Elks National Foundation, we held this event at the Baraboo Civic Center Gym. The Baraboo Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department afforded us a deep discount for rental which greatly helped in maintaining our budget. Our 68 special guests enjoyed a fabulous meal catered by Karen Schulze and served to them by our "Prom Buddies," volunteers from the Baraboo High School National Honor Society and Student Council. These wonderful students kept the party alive after dinner and danced the evening away with our guests, who were all crowned as King and Queen before the evening ended. Special thanks go to Cindy Weber and her staff at Blooms Unfold for gorgeous floral centerpieces that adorned our tables, to The Wilderness for loaning us table linens which added elegance to the occasion, to Kevin Kellogg of Circus City DJs who didn't miss a beat and kept the music alive, to Carla Phelps who created the beautiful sign for our theme display from Sign Gypsies, to Teri Sonsalla and Lisa Turner from H & S Financial for donating Hors D'Oeuvres and Desserts for the parents and caregivers present, to Seamstresses Liz Schlender, Katy Heller, Brenda VanHoosen, and Anne Brodin for giving endless hours of alterations for the prom dresses we donated to our guests. And Megan Unger, the corsages and boutonnieres that you made were gorgeous! All of these community members added to the magic that made our Prom such a special event. We also wish to thank our special dignitaries who attended and graced our Head Table: Our Exalted Ruler, Nick Lange and his wife, Anna, Mayor Rob Nelson of Baraboo, State Rep. Dave Considine and his wife, Gretchen, District Deputy of the Wisconsin Central District, Rick Miller, and Past WEA State President Jerry Brien and his wife, Kathy. Their presence added to the ambience of celebrating our very important guests. We also greatly appreciate the help from members of the Portage Elks Lodge who shadowed us this year in our preparation of the prom so that they will sponsor a Prom for Special Needs in alternate years with us moving forward. This event was a labor of love to honor our Special Needs Community and we are so blessed to live in Baraboo and the surrounding communities where residents embrace this event and join in our mission. Lastly, thanks to the Prom Committee and many members who contributed their time and talents to this event. It was definitely an evening to remember!

This fast paced world is full of challenges that test our convictions every day. Seemingly, we are constantly being challenged with ethical and moral questions, and there certainly are those individuals who try to blur the lines.

Regardless of how fast and how much things change in this world, there still exists a definitive line between right and wrong. One doesn't have to look any further than the core tenets of our Order – Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity – to find the answer.

Charity is about doing good unto others without doing so for personal gain or benefit. As Elks we should try to leave more than we take.

Justice frames the laws of life and holds us accountable for doing the right thing. As Elks we need to uphold the laws of this great country, as well as the rules of our Order.

Brotherly love teaches us to truly cherish and care for others, and Fidelity requires that we are true to ourselves and what we believe in.

As Elks we live our lives under the Golden Rule, and treat others as we would like to be treated.

This basic framework guides us through life, and our involvement with the Elks serves as an important reminder. We are able to see first-hand in our communities the impact of charity and brotherly love. Elks are there to lend a hand in all sorts of community events, from disaster relief to fundraising events for breast cancer research – thus the famous slogan, “Elks Care – Elks Share.”

Elks are people of good character and moral fiber. We stand up for what we believe in, and are known to be fair and just.

In conclusion, as we navigate the troubled waters of this world, let us look to our Elks beacon of light to guide the way – Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity!



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April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	¹ Closed	² Board Meeting 6:00 pm Lodge Meeting 7:00 pm	³ Open 4-9pm	⁴ Open 4-9pm	⁵ Closed	⁶ Murder Mystery Food Stand
⁷ Murder Mystery Food Stand	⁸ Elks & Friends Bowling Banquet 6-9pm	⁹ Closed	¹⁰ Open 4-9pm Bowling Banquet	¹¹ Open 4-9pm	¹² Closed	¹³ Closed
¹⁴ Closed	¹⁵ Closed	¹⁶ Board Meeting 6:00 pm Lodge Meeting 7:00 pm	¹⁷ Open 4-9pm	¹⁸ Euchre Tournament 8pm	¹⁹ Closed	²⁰ District Deputy Meeting 10:00 am
²¹ Closed	²² Closed	²³ Open 4-9pm	²⁴ Open 4-9pm	²⁵ Closed	²⁶ Closed	²⁷ Closed
²⁸ Closed	²⁹ Closed	³⁰ Closed				