



PRIDE OF 688

Volume 73 Number 2

February 2025

Brothers and sisters of Elkdom,

As we enter the month of February, let us remember the importance of unity, compassion and service. Let us continue to stand together as Elks, supporting each other and our community.

Together we can make a difference by spreading love and kindness wherever we go. Let this month be a reminder of our collective strength and the positive impact we can have when we work together towards a common goal.

Wishing you all a month full of love, camaraderie, inspiration, and meaningful contributions!

Respectfully yours,
Luisa Ion
Exalted Ruler

February is a month rich with history and patriotic significance, and as Elks, we take pride in honoring these meaningful events.

Four Chaplains Day – February 3

We honor the bravery and selflessness of the four chaplains who gave their lives to save others during the sinking of the USAT Dorchester in 1943. Their story is a testament to unity, sacrifice, and faith.

USO Birthday – February 4

Celebrating 82 years of supporting America’s service members, the USO has been a beacon of comfort for troops and their families. From care packages to entertainment, their mission aligns with ours: service and gratitude.

National Salute to Veteran Patients – Week of February 14

During this special week, we salute the veterans receiving care in VA medical facilities. Let’s take a moment to reach out, send cards, or visit a veteran to show our gratitude for their service.

Coast Guard Reserve Birthday – February 19


Established in 1941, the Coast Guard Reserve has been a vital part of our nation’s defense. We celebrate their dedication and the role they play in protecting our waters and our people.


As Elks, we proudly uphold our commitment to community, country, and those who serve. Supporting our veterans remains at the heart of our mission, reflecting our deep gratitude for their sacrifices. Let us come together this February to honor these meaningful occasions with reflection, celebration, and heartfelt appreciation.



Join us for a Super Bowl Party!

Join us on Sunday, February 9th at the Lodge for a fun-filled evening of football, food, and friends!

 When: Sunday, February 9th

 Doors Open: 5:00 PM

Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy the big game on the big screen! Whether you're in it for the football, the commercials, or just the great company, there’s something for everyone.

Let’s make it a touchdown of a potluck! 🍌
See you there!

2024-2025 LODGE OFFICERS

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

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Jason Snyder Joe Weis
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Tony Kieffer Miguel Burgos Nick Lange

DISTRICT DEPUTY CENTRAL DISTRICT

Mike Roth

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 that may arise from time to time. Comments regarding 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 madate 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

2024-2025 PER OFFICERS

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

Lodge meets on the first and third Tuesdays at 7:00 pm 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

Upcoming Lodge Meetings: Nominations and Elections

Mark your calendars! At the February 4th Lodge Meeting, nominations for officers and trustees will be accepted. Elections for these important positions will follow at the February 18th Lodge Meeting.

All members are encouraged to attend these and all meetings. Lodge Meetings provide an opportunity to actively participate in voting, stay informed about current and upcoming charitable and fraternal events, and connect with fellow members while engaging in Lodge activities.

Your voice and involvement make a difference—see you at the meetings!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

01 Cate Heath	19 Timothy Miller
01 Brian Standiford	20 Jim Francisco
13 Eugene Pfeil	23 Din Dovolos
• 14 John Young	23 Stephan Ward
• 17 James Norman	24 Lee Hoppe
• 18 James McGovern	24 James Messer

Stop in for your free
BIRTHDAY DRINK during
your birthday month!

BARABOO ELKS LODGE 688 BULLETIN

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A Non-Profit Fraternal Organization

Baraboo Elks Bulletin

Published Monthly



2025-2026 Dues Statements

You may have already received your dues statement for the upcoming Elks year. If not, it will arrive soon. This year, Grand Lodge has decreased the percapita fees by \$4.00, which is reflected in your statement. These statements are sent directly from Grand Lodge as part of a cost-saving program to benefit all Lodges. You have multiple options to pay your dues:

- Online at Elks.org
- Credit Card payments in person at the Lodge
- Mail check payments to Baraboo Elks #688 at P.O. Box 103, Baraboo, WI 53913

On your statement, you'll notice a voluntary contribution option to support Elks charities. Here's how your donations make an impact:

State Major Project

These tax-deductible donations support individuals with moderate to severe disabilities at Camp Wawbeek in Wisconsin Dells. Camp Wawbeek was established to provide children and adults with disabilities a chance to hike, swim, learn about nature, try new adventures, and challenges in an accessible environment. The Respite Center is unique in that it is the one program in Wisconsin that provides over night, one-on-one care, and it accepts campers with severe and multiple-disabilities who are turned away by many other facilities.

Wisconsin Elks Benevolent Fund

This fund supports charitable activities exclusive to Wisconsin, including: Hoop Shoot Tournaments, Drug Awareness Activities, Youth Programs and Grants. Lodges can apply for grants through the Wisconsin Elks Association (WEA) for initiatives benefiting youth, veterans, and communities. This year, our Lodge received:

- \$1,500 WEA Grant which helped to fund our Dictionary Project
- \$410 Youth Activities Grant which supported our Halloween/Drug Awareness Event-Say Boo to Drugs.

Elks National Foundation (ENF)

The ENF provides grants that empower Lodges to address community needs. Here's how we've utilized our ENF grants this year:

- Spotlight Grant: \$2,000 donated to Hope House in Baraboo
- Gratitude Grant: Contributed \$1,000 each to both the Baraboo Food Pantry and the Beyond Blessed Pantry in Baraboo, \$750 each to the Reedsburg and Sauk Prairie Food Pantries.
- Freedom Grant: Purchased \$1,000 in Kwik Trip gift cards for veterans, distributed through the Sauk County Veterans Service Office.
- Beacon Grant: \$2,000 each to 6:8 Inc in Sauk Prairie and \$2,000 in essentially needed supplies to Pathway Home, the Baraboo area homeless shelter.

Join the Fidelity Club

Consider joining the ENF Fidelity Club, an automatic giving program starting as low as just \$5.00 per month. These recurring donations provide consistent support for the charitable work we do. Visit Elks.org under the "Elks National Foundation" tab for more information.

Thank you for your support and generosity in helping our Lodge extend charity and goodwill throughout our community!

HOOP SHOOT

Congratulations to Noah Cote for winning the boys 8-9 division at the Central Regional Elks Hoop Shoot this weekend in Wausau!

Noah will move on to the State Finals in February and we are excited to have him represent our lodge!



Pictured are Baraboo Elk members Ryan Swantz, Kathy Francisco, participant Noah Cote and his father Jared and Baraboo Elk member Jason Snyder



Love is in the Air: Share Kindness This Valentine's Day

As February rolls around, love is in the air, and it's the perfect time to show appreciation for the special people in our lives. Valentine's Day is more than just a celebration of love—it's a wonderful opportunity to share kindness, gratitude, and goodwill with our family, friends, and community.

This year, let's extend that kindness to our nation's heroes through Valentines for Veterans. Take a moment to create or write a heartfelt Valentine to bring a little extra warmth and gratitude to the lives of our veterans. A small gesture of thanks can go a long way in brightening their day and reminding them of the appreciation we hold for their service.

Beyond that, consider reaching out to someone who could use a little extra care this season. Whether it's a friendly call to an old friend, volunteering for a charitable cause, or surprising a neighbor with a kind gesture, every act of kindness makes a difference. As we celebrate Valentine's Day, let's also reflect on the bonds of friendship and fellowship that makes our Lodge so special. We're grateful for each of you and the Brotherly Love you all bring to our Baraboo Elk family. Wishing you all a heartfelt Valentine's Day! ❤️



We're excited to announce the return of Guest Chefs for February! A big thank you to the members who have signed up to share their culinary talents with us.

Be sure to check the bulletin and follow us on social media for updates on Guest Chef nights and any menu changes. Mark your calendar for a showcase of delicious dishes:

- Wednesday February 5th- Anna Lange- Soup, Salad & Dessert
- Wednesday February 12th- Kevin & Deb Schell- Lasagna, Garlic Bread & Salad
- Thursday February 20th- Ken Opatik- Chicken & Haluski, Vegetable & Dessert
- Wednesday February 27th- Joy Swantz- Loaded Baked Potatoes

Don't miss out on these special nights—come hungry and ready to enjoy!

Wisconsin Elks Associate Technical College Scholarships

The Wisconsin Elks Association is now accepting applications for Technical College Scholarships! These scholarships are available to any Wisconsin resident planning to pursue an eligible Vocational/Technical program at a two-year Wisconsin Technical College.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Enrollment in a Vocational/Technical program lasting two years or less, culminating in an Associate degree, Diploma, or Certificate.
- A minimum of 12 credits per semester during the award period.
- Applicants must be U.S. citizens and Wisconsin residents.

How to Apply:

Completed applications must be submitted to the Elks Lodge nearest your permanent home address by April 1, 2025. A list of Wisconsin Elks Lodges can be found at wiselks.org along with the application. We will have applications available on the bulletin board at our lodge.

JOIN US FOR A

Valentine's Day themed



POTLUCK GAME NIGHT

FEBRUARY 15, 2025

DOORS OPEN 5PM
GAME STARTS 6PM

Get ready for an evening of laughter and friendly competition at Family Feud! Please bring a dish to share and your enthusiasm for a great time. There's a potluck sign-up sheet at the Lodge—stop by to see what's already on the menu and choose a dish to bring. Let's make it a great event filled with delicious food and fun!

Thank You to our Sponsors!

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Silver Donors donate \$50 for six months of sponsorship. Gold Donors donate \$100 for a full year of sponsoring. Platinum Donors gift over \$100 toward the publication of our bulletin. We also welcome our commercial sponsors who chose to advertise in our monthly bulletin. All of these sponsors are members, so please consider becoming a patron of these businesses



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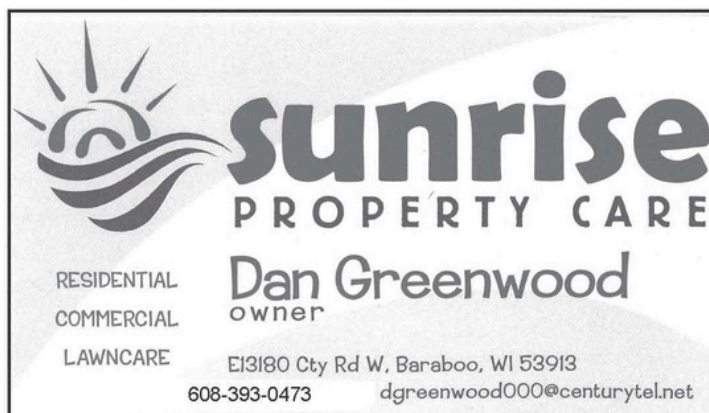
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BARABOO ELKS LODGE NO. 688

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FEBRUARY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED	3 CLOSED	4 OPEN 5PM BOARD MTG 6PM LODGE MTG 7PM	5 OPEN 4-9PM Guest Chef-Anna Lange	6 OPEN 4-9PM	7 CLOSED	8 CLOSED
9 SUPER BOWL PARTY OPEN 5PM	10 CLOSED	11 CLOSED	12 OPEN 4-9PM Guest Chef-Kevin & Deb Schell	13 OPEN 4-9PM	14 CLOSED	15 GAME NIGHT OPEN 5PM
16 CLOSED	17 CLOSED	18 OPEN 5PM BOARD MTG 6PM LODGE MTG 7PM	19 OPEN 4-9PM	20 OPEN 4-9PM EUCHRE 6PM Guest Chef-Ken Opatik	21 CLOSED	22 CLOSED
23 CLOSED	24 CLOSED	25 CLOSED	26 OPEN 4-9PM	27 OPEN 4-9PM Guest Chef-Joy Swantz	28 CLOSED	