



# NEWSLETTER

Charity | Justice | Brotherly Love | Fidelity

JULY 2022 | VOLUME 256

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## MISSION STATEMENT

"To inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that Elks Care and Elks Share."

## ER's Message

Greetings! By the time this letter makes its way out to the Members, I will be packed and heading to the Grand Lodge Convention set for around the Fourth of July. I am excited for the chance to learn more about our great Order, to meet new people, and to exchange ideas. I am always interested to hear more about what other Lodges are doing with hopes that it may add value to our operations. It will also be a chance to recharge the batteries a bit. We all could use that I think. I will use the time to reflect on some things I could do better going forward. This is all a work in progress with no playbook to work from. I have missed the mark at times. For that I do apologize and will strive to do better in the future.

In that vein, I want to take the time to again thank all of you for all that you do for our Lodge. We have a pretty good thing going and it is because of the tireless effort of many people that we are able to keep pressing forward. It really isn't easy to turn a battleship but that is precisely what we are doing. So many people do so much to keep our Lodge running. Thank you to Jimmy Walsh for updating the Charter Member list, cutting the grass and painting the outside awning posts. Thanks to Mark Coyne for your work on the downstairs men's room. Thank you to Tim Davis for stepping up to get the freezer back online quickly. Thank you to Jean Probst for keeping our grounds looking absolutely amazing in these months. Thanks to Nick Vecchione for getting the

pull tabs in better order for us as asked. Thanks to Dirk Van Deusen and the Veterans Committee for your efforts to help Vets. Thanks to Cheri Pierce Rigsbee and to Joel Rigsbee for their constant tireless effort. Thank you to the bartenders for stepping up in new and often hectic situations. Thank you to Tom Clinton and Paul Sweet for their generous donations recently to ENF. Thank you to Tom Nardacci and John Christiansen for keeping the place running. Thank you to the Bingo Crew for absolutely killing it. Thank you to the breakfasts crews for cranking out food and offering good service. Thank you to Lisa Canfield for varnishing all the outside picnic tables. Thank you to my Officers for their help. And thank you to all of you who help and support our Lodge and make it what it is. Finally, if I missed anyone here my sincere apologies, I will catch you soon.

We are hitting the Summer months now and this is prime season for our House Committee to shine. They have done a lot of work to make events happen and are hitting on all cylinders. Great job all around and I thank each of you! I see how hard you work, and it is appreciated. I would especially like to thank Bob Myron for stepping up and doing all that you do around our Lodge. Paul Muzio should be given a great deal of credit as well for keeping the House Committee organized behind the scenes. We got off to a very fast start but the plan for July and August is to dial things back considerably as our Members relax,

## A Pause to Give Thanks

travel and enjoy the weather outside of the Lodge. We will remain open for regular business but there is no point in holding a ton of extra events if the attendance just isn't there to support it.

We have experimented with a number of things so far this Lodge year including: Trivia Night, Karaoke, Live Music, Open Mic Night, Ladies Night, and Kids Night. I know not all events are for everyone. Your vote for what we want to continue to do going forward is based on how well an event gets supported. If you like these events and want to see more of them at the Club, then show up and support the cause. Thank you to those have been a part of these gatherings. It is nice to have Covid mostly in the rear-view mirror so that we can go out and enjoy life again.

This month, I wanted to showcase the need for Elks National Foundation (ENF) donations and ask you to please join the effort if you are able. I also would encourage you to read former State President Bear Griffith's outgoing message later in our newsletter. He reiterates a few key points we have discussed here.

As always, please let me know how I can better serve our Membership.

Regards,

Greg Collins

Tel: (407) 495-7561

E-mail: [gregecollins@gmail.com](mailto:gregecollins@gmail.com)

## HOUSE REPORT

### Greetings,

My message to the Members this month is to encourage all of us to look to make incremental changes today that positively affect the future of the Lodge. The past is history, be present in the moment and look forward to the future.

We have invested in a tool to help coordinate our volunteers called "Sign Up Genius" which is used by many other social organizations and schools. We hope this will do a few things. First, make more people aware of the needs we have internally. And second to provide an efficient way to sign up for those roles. An invite will be sent out via e-mail soon to initiate the process and seek volunteer help. Events will be listed on the platform. Some with detailed information and others simply the basics. Sign-ups will be available for chaperones, servers, cooks among other things. While I can't say this

will roll out perfectly smooth, my hope is that it will be a helpful tool and a step in the right direction.

I have heard from some Members that they would like the opportunity to have food service and catering training and an organization day. We have scheduled Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM for that specific purpose. All existing cooks should attend to review things and have consistent protocols. New aspiring cooks are welcome and encouraged. If you cannot make it, please contact me to express interest and set up an alternative date and time.

Thank you for all the work you are doing. I appreciate your participation, volunteering and the compliments that have been offered. It is my pleasure to serve the Lodge. I would encourage all of us to be part of something big and awesome. We are doing great things internally.

Try to get involved and do something. Have fun and learn. Participate when possible as a little bit goes a long way.

Please help your fellow Elks. If you see someone working, ask them if they could use help. We are all owners of the Lodge. Take pride in the work being done. If you see something that needs to be done, just do it. Do not assume someone else will handle it. And be responsible for yourself.

Thank you again for all that you do. Please let me know how I can assist.

Best,

Bob Myron

House Committee Chair

Tel: (518) 283-7784

E-mail: [bobtoddm11@gmail.com](mailto:bobtoddm11@gmail.com)

## LODGE OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler	Greg Collins
Leading Knight	Paul Muzio
Loyal Knight	Steve Frese
Lecturing Knight	Patrick Skelley
Esquire	Gerald Wendel
Chaplain	Al Campisano
Inner Guard	Barry Betz Jr.
Tiler	Natalie Wagner
Secretary	Tom Nardacci, PDDGER
Treasurer	John Christiansen, PER
House Committee Chair	Bob Myron, PER
Newsletter Editor	Alan Hedge
<b>Trustees</b>	
5 Year Trustee	Chuck Adams, PER
4 Year Trustee	Ronald Barner, PER
3 Year Trustee	Dana Murphy
2 Year Trustee	Charles Van Buren
1 Year Trustee	Tim Davis

## NEW LODGE WEBSITE

Have a look!!! The Lodge has just re-launched our new website virtually at [www.2073elks.org](http://www.2073elks.org). Please check it out as it contains a ton of useful information and tools to assist Members.

Communication has always been a huge challenge. This is a step to assist that. It is also a way to market our good works in the community.

If you have ideas for the website, or would like to do some work to help build it out, please contact Greg Collins at [gregecollins@gmail.com](mailto:gregecollins@gmail.com) or (407) 495-7561.

## Get Involved!

- Like / Share on Facebook
- Invite a Friend
- Volunteer Your Time
- Share Your Ideas
- Attend Lodge Fundraisers
- Attend Lodge Meetings
- Say No To Lodge Drama

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Committee	Chair
Accident Prevention	Chris Linck
Activities Committee	Cheri Pierce Rigsbee
Adopt-A-Highway	Brian Kirch, PER
Adopt-A-Family	Angie Vroman
All-American Lodge	Greg Collins
Americanism	Mary Jean Willis, PER
Antlers Program	Mary Lou Hedge
Auditing	Mike Bobersky / Andy Koenig
Bar Stewards	Tim Grugan / Tom Nardacci, PDDGER
Bell Jar	Nick Vecchione, PER
Bingo Chair	Mark Mann
Charitable Reporting	Linda Rowse, DDD
Christmas Party	Nancy Hunt
Cigar Tasting	Bryan Van Deusen
Coats for Kids	Jo Anne Netzer
Community Activities	Bob Myron, PER
Dart League	Charles Megyesi
Diversity	Natalie Wagner
Drug Awareness	Barry Betz Jr.
Elks National Foundation	Lawrence E. Rowse, PDDGER
Elk Training	Dave Hilker, PER
Entertainment	Dan Lang / Eileen Collins
Flag Day	Marylou Hedge
Fraternal	Cheri Pierce Rigsbee
Fundraising	Natalie Wagner
Government Relations	Tom Grant / Phil Danaher
Grants	Natalie Wagner
Greenbush Award	Chris Linck
Grounds	James Walsh
Hoop Shoot	Scott Galameau
House Chair	Bob Myron, PER
Indoctrination	Linda Rowse, DDD

Internet / Electronic	Thom Job
Justice	Joseph Slater
Kids Coaching Program	Jennifer Davis
Lapsation	Lawrence E. Rowse, PDDGER
Liquor Steward	Pat Taney
Lodge Historian	Ronald Barner, PER
Lottery	Chris Adams
Major Projects	Paul Muzio
Marketing	Greg Collins
Meat Raffle	Steve Frese
Membership	Greg Collins
Memorial Sunday	Jack Coyne
National Veterans Service	Dirck Van Deusen
Newsletter Editor	Alan Hedge
PER Association	Brian Kirch, PER
Photography	Paul Muzio
Public Relations	Greg Collins
Recreation	Ronald Barner, PER
Ritual	Tom Nardacci, PDDGER
Scholarship	Lori Bishop
Sickness and Distress	James Walsh
Soccer Shoot	Patrick Skelley
Steak and Lobster Bake	Steve Frese
Toys for Tots	Nancy Hunt
Trunk or Treat	Rose Herbst
Turkey Bowl	Joseph Slater / Steve Slater
Turkey Shoot	Lawrence E. Rowse, PDDGER
WELKcome	Chris Trumbull
Youth Activities	Cathy Scoons

## LODGE INFORMATION

Website:	<a href="http://www.2073elks.org">www.2073elks.org</a>		
Telephone:	(518) 477-9947		
ER Greg:	<a href="mailto:gregecollins@gmail.com">gregecollins@gmail.com</a>		
Lodge E-mail:	<a href="mailto:2073elks@gmail.com">2073elks@gmail.com</a>		
Newsletter:	<a href="mailto:renss.elksnewsletter@gmail.com">renss.elksnewsletter@gmail.com</a>		
Events:	<a href="mailto:housechairmanelks2073@gmail.com">housechairmanelks2073@gmail.com</a>		
Mailing Address:	683 Columbia Turnpike East Greenbush, NY 12061		
Lodge Hours:	Monday through Sunday 2:00 PM – 8:00 PM		
Lodge Meetings:	2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 PM		
Trustee Meetings:	2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM		
House Committee Meetings:	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday at 6:00 PM and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 11:30 AM		
Facebook:	@2073elks	Linked In:	2073elks
Twitter:	@2073elks	Tik Tok:	2073elks
Snap Chat:	2073elks	Pinterest:	@2073elks

## SECRETARY'S CORNER

Lodge dues have increased this year to \$71.00 due to Grand Lodge and State assessments.

- **Dues for fiscal year 2022 – 2023** went out in the mail beginning in February so you should have received notice. If you did not, please make sure we have a current mailing address.
- **Pay Your Dues Now!** If you are delinquent, please pay your dues so you don't become inactive for payment.
- Please remember that only Members current on their dues may enter the building and you may not sign in delinquent members as guests.

There are now two ways to pay your dues:

- **Mail in a check:** Rensselaer Elks Lodge #2073, Attn: Lodge Secretary, 683 Columbia Turnpike East Greenbush, NY 12061. Be sure to include your membership # in the "Memo" portion.
- **Stop In:** Come visit me at the Lodge or see the bartender with cash / check

**Important Notice:** In July, at the regular Lodge meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>, there will be a general revision to the Rensselaer Elks Lodge #2073



We need your help! Please contact the House Committee Chair or ER to find out ways you may get involved.

- Cook burgers and hot dogs
- Make salads
- Chaperone a party
- Clean up after an event

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK: JULY 2022

### Let's Get Our Membership Current...

We currently have 71 delinquent members who need to pay their dues for the 2022-2023 Lodge year. Please check the delinquent list and see if may know someone on the list. We kindly ask all Members, especially Sponsors, to help us reduce the number of delinquent Members in our Lodge. The Grand Lodge sends out monthly delinquent statements, at a charge to the Lodge, and should be used to remit your dues. If I could process these dues payments, that part of my duties would be completed, and I could move on to other Lodge business.

Thank You, Tom

## SUNDAY BREAKFAST



The Lodge hosts breakfast every Sunday morning from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM and members, their guests and the general public are welcome to attend. Our full service menu offers the most reasonable prices in town and a wide variety of food options with generous portions cer-

tain to please each guest. Help us to build our breakfast crowd by inviting a friend to join you. Groups are welcome, but please call ahead for reservations.

## Diversity / Inclusion

Is it time for the Lodge to change the sign on the front of the building which currently reads, "To Our Absent Brothers"? On one hand, it is part of our history. However, in some ways it seems like a slight to all those good women who have helped to make this Lodge what it is. I would propose that we consider a new covering to read: "To Our Absent Members". Come to a meeting...

## SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

Bob Gidding, Liz Roberts, Chuck Van Buren

Please contact the Lodge for any sickness and distress at (518) 477-9947. If you know of someone who has lost a friend or family member, or someone who could use a cheery word or assistance from fellow Elks, please let us know. Elks Care!



## In Memory Of...

Our Departed Members: None

In vain we call. They have passed into the light which is beyond the valley of the shadows of death; the places that have known them shall know them no more. Their faults we write upon the sands but their virtues upon the tablets of love and memory.

Rest in peace. Until we meet again at the hour of 11...

## QUARTER POOL

01	1733	17	3150
02	3087	18	1286
03	3281	19	2276
04	2418	20	1621
05	1443	21	3091
06	1842	22	1733
07	2738	23	3231
08	3253	24	0949
09	2925	25	2273
10	2067	26	2090
11	3258	27	3345
12	1883	28	0525
13	0908	29	1973
14	0079	30	2750
15	2532	31	2151
16	3175		
2 Winners			

## BINGO REPORT

Every Thursday night starting at 7:00 PM. Open to players age 18+. Doors open at 5:00 PM. \$1,300 in prizes.



- Chair: Mark Mann
- Events: 4
- Players: 321
- Gross Receipts: \$11,040
- Prizes: \$7,353
- Net: \$3,691

AMERICAN RED CROSS



Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 6:30 PM



# MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

As we get into the Lodge year, I want to challenge all Members to invite a guest to attend the various Lodge events we are having. Part of our membership initiative revolves around these Member + Guest events. Not only are they a fun time for our Members, but they are an opportunity to show new people what we are all about. It is a much easier ask to fill out an application after an enjoyable evening. If every one of our Members tried to recruit one new candidate, we would grow exponentially.

A big part of the All-American Lodge Contest revolves around growing Membership. Please help us recruit. We have a lot of great things going on at the moment, a good vibe in the Lodge, and a lot of rejuvenated Members. Let's crank it up even more!

To help you brainstorm, who do you know that may wish to join from the following groups?

- Friends and Family
- Neighbors
- Co-workers / Former Co-workers
- Fellow Church Parishioners
- Recent Retirees
- Young Families
- Recent Widowers
- Veterans / Active Military
- Former Lodge Members

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Applications on Hand	
Waiting to Read	6
Investigation Committee	0
Ready for Balloting	0
Ready for Orientation	18
Ready for Initiation	0
Ready for Affiliation	0
Ready for Reinstatement	2
Other	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>
Beginning Membership Total 4/1/22	661
Increases	
Initiated	23
Affiliated	1
Reinstated	3
Subtotal	27
Decreases	
Dropped	0
Transferred Out	0
Absolute Dimit	0
Deaths	3
Expelled	0
Subtotal	3
Calculated Membership Total	685
(CLMS Active Members Membership out of balance	678
Average Age	60.14
Gain/Loss	24
Delinquency	
Six Months	0
One Year	71
Over One year	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>
Lapsation Rate	10.74%

## WELCOME ABOARD!



## MEMBERSHIP PIPELINE

Theresa Borges	By Marylou Hedge
John County	By Dirck Van Deusen
Ernest Daoust	By Tim Davis
Chad Farrell	By Jason Deyette
Jessica Iorio	By Chris Linck
Marc Iorio	By Chris Linck
Joe Juliano	By Gary Wager
James Juliano Sr.	By Gary Wager
Matthew Justin (Reinstatement)	By Dan Colvin
Tyler Lemieux	By Patrick Skelley
Daniel Plumley	By Mark Mann
Brian Stock (Reinstatement)	By Greg Collins
Robert Tritto	By Pat Taney
Jake Villeneuve	By Brian Koreman

Welcome to the 7 newest members of our Lodge and congratulations!

Pictured in the photo are Matthew Coleman, Dena Peckham, Sean Turner, Alison Turner, ER Greg Collins, Cristy Daley, Stacy Jones and Cory Jones.

## TOP PROPOSERS

Robert T Myron	3
Kayla Grugan	2
Robert J Leddick	2
Paul Muzio	2
Tom Nardacci PDDGER	2



- August 6** : ER Birthday Bash
- August 12** : Karaoke Night
- August 13** : Elks Carnival
- August 20** : EGPD Car Seat Safety Check
- August 23** : Ladies Night
- August 27** : Steak Bake

## Local Veterans and Friends

**Where:** Alexis Diner, 294 North Greenbush Road, Troy, NY  
(518) 286-2603

**When:** Every Tuesday at 8:00 AM

**Where:** Schodack Diner, 1842 Columbia Turnpike, Castleton, NY (518) 477-5014

**When:** Every Thursday at 8:00 AM

**Where:** Melvin Roads American Legion Post #1231, 200 Columbia Turnpike, Rensselaer, NY (518) 462-7006

**When:** Every Thursday at 8:00 AM

## Flag Day Celebration



## RENSSELAER ELKS IN ACTION

### Visit to the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center



### Flag Retirement Ceremony



### Coffee With a Cop



# GRAND LODGE NEWS



I have never found the following statement to be truer: "Time flies when you are having fun." The year comes to a close for Amy and I. We were truly blessed. We will be eternally grateful for the opportunity you gave us to serve this great Order, and you can count on our continued dedication to the Elks for as long as we are able to serve.

Throughout our year's travels, we were constantly surprised, thrilled, and astonished about all the fantastic individuals we met, as well as their support and dedication. Seeing all the many accomplishments the Lodges and state associations have achieved made both of us proud to be part of this organization.

We were very surprised at the number of friends we had made before this journey leading up to this year. It made our visits more comfortable to see old friends and, of course, we made many new friends as well. To witness first-hand the multiple State Major Projects, as well as the contributions that are being made in all Elks communities, is something neither one of us will ever forget.

## Great job "Meeting the Challenge" in 2021-22

This year has meant so much to Amy and me. The generosity and hospitality that was shown to us can never be repaid. All the Members we met made us feel right at home and treated us like family. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my family for helping us unselfishly through this entire year. We missed some important family events, but they all understood the importance of the obligation that Amy and I had taken. I would have to say the toughest part of this year was not seeing the grandkids as much as we would have liked. But, this experience helped us realize how important our family is. It will make our future gatherings more special.

Finally, I would like to once again thank the love of my life, Amy. Without her love and support, none of this would have been possible. I am truly blessed to have been able to not only serve the Elks, but to have Amy at my side through this wonderful journey. We look forward to seeing everyone in Atlanta, and we hope and pray for safe travels to and from the annual Grand Lodge Convention. God bless you all, God bless the Elks, and God bless these United States of America.

[WWW.ELKS.ORG](http://WWW.ELKS.ORG)

## NYS ELKS ASSOCIATION NEWS



An excerpt from Bear Griffith, New York State President's Outgoing Message: "Elks...Now More Than Ever"

"Our members are our greatest assets, without members, our Lodges would be nothing more than a storage facility. We must cultivate and nurture our members to ensure they continue to belong, to encourage their participation and to facilitate their involvement. How do we do this? What a complex

question with a different answer for each member, for each lodge, and for each age group. The following is my opinion:

They must feel safe. They need to feel physically safe whether by well-lit parking, well maintained facilities, and facilities which meet their mobility challenges. They must also feel emotionally safe; free from confrontation, harassment, vulgarity, and discrimination. They need to feel equal with all of the other members. Our Grand Exalted Ruler was so right when he said there is only one kind of elk membership card. No members are more important than any other.

They must feel welcome. The lodge needs to be a friendly welcoming place free of cliques, different classes of members, and program leaders too busy to add new members to their efforts. It's also important that their ideas feel welcome. Too many times we alienate our members when we say "we don't do it that way here" or "we tried that before and it didn't work". There are so many good ideas which are stifled by fear of rejection.

They need to feel involved. This means not only involved in the work but involved in the decision making, the planning and involved in the after-action review.

They need to feel recognized. Not everyone needs a plaque, but everyone can use a pat on the back. A hearty thank you is even better when it is done publicly. Remember the old adage "praise in public and criticize in private" it's been around for hundreds of years (recorded as early as 35 BC and it's been embraced by people like Catherine the Great and Vince Lombardi).

They must feel encouraged. Encouraged to participate, encouraged to succeed, and encouraged to advance. Not everyone wants to be an officer, but everyone should be encouraged to do so. They must feel that their membership is worth it. Our members have a choice where to spend their time, their money and their talents. To prove our worth, we must ensure that we don't waste any of these."

[WWW.NYSELKS.ORG](http://WWW.NYSELKS.ORG)

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Thank you to our Scholarship Chair, Lori Bishop, for her hard work in handling the Lodge Scholarship judging this year. There are more scholarship funds available from the Grand Lodge as well as New York State Elks. Both the national scholarship and state funds require your child to sign up for the Most Valuable Student Scholarship portal, as a first step. Details will be available soon on that, and we will keep you posted via the newsletter as well as an e-mail blast on how and when to apply. Let's get some Elks money in the hands of families in our community.

## LODGE NEWS

Want to include something in the Newsletter? Please submit by the 20th of the month. Please sign up to receive your newsletter by e-mail. Please e-mail submissions to [renss.elksnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:renss.elksnewsletter@gmail.com) or place in mailbox by the bar.

## E-mail Address Capture

Please help us to build better communication by providing your e-mail address. Whether you have given it to us before, please send a new message with your current e-mail so that we can update our system to [renss.elksnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:renss.elksnewsletter@gmail.com)



## Organ & Tissue Donation



Our Lodge has formally joined forces with Donate Life America to increase donations of organs, eyes and life-saving tissue and to inspire our members and the community at large to give this incredible life-saving gift.

Even though 95% of Americans are in favor of being a donor, only 54% of the U.S. adult population, are registered organ, eye and tissue donors. Nationally, nearly 33,600 patients began new lives in 2016 thanks to organ transplants. 683,000 have taken place since 1988. Every year 1.5 million tissue transplants are performed. 48,000 patients have their sight restored through corneal transplants each year and 1,500,000 since 1961! Unfortunately, 119,000 men, women and children currently need life-

saving organ transplants. Then, add another name to the national organ transplant waiting list every 10 minutes. No wonder an average of 22 people die each day from the lack of available organs for transplant!

Please come to a brief informational meeting about our organ and tissue donation effort on Sunday, July 31st at 3:00 PM in the Lodge. Hear a firsthand story from heart recipient and East Greenbush resident, Dave Gray. Pizza will be served, and two free drink tokens given to all who attend for the full duration of the meeting. This is important stuff and worth a few moments of your time.



### U.S. FLAG RETIREMENT Box

We would like to consider the idea of providing a receptacle at our Lodge as a place to properly and respectfully dispose of worn-out American Flags. Other Lodges have this in place, and it is befitting our organization as one that truly honors the Flag. Some receptacles are simply heavy cardboard, others are re-purposed steel U.S. mailboxes, and some are hand-crafted wood. Anyone who has an interest in this project, please contact the ER with ideas.

## Sincere Apologies...

During the Lodge Appreciation Party, we regrettably failed to acknowledge the efforts of the House Committee for their tireless effort. We do apologize for the oversight on this. We are extremely grateful for the work that the House Committee has done to keep us up and running. They put in long hours and do so many things behind the scenes.

My sincerest apologies to HC Paul Muzio and members Mary Muzio, Karen Peak, Rob Miller, Shari Miller, Bev Rauch, Scott Galarneau, Mary Lou Hedge, Bob Myron and Nancy Hunt. Please accept my apologies and thank you for a job well done!

Fraternally,  
PER Brian

## VETERANS



Great job by Dirck Van Deusen and our Veterans Committee in recent activity. Our box to collect food, clothing, and personal care items was a success and will be repeated again in the future. Dirck and Carolyn Felock delivered a check for \$1,000 and donations amounting to \$1,500 to the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center on behalf of the Lodge with the help of Cheri Pierce Rigsbee and Karen Barner. As mentioned elsewhere, the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Rocky Prinzo Golf Tournament will benefit Vets in need. The PER Association also made a generous donation to the Veterans Committee in the amount of \$600. Finally, we have some grant funding that will be deployed in the months ahead. If you want to help Vets in need, and they really do need it, please see Dirck directly for more information.



Barry Betz Jr. is becoming a national celebrity as he has appeared more than once in the Elks National Magazine. Must be nice to be that good looking! As a longtime observer, I see our Lodge having more unique events and drawing in new Members at an exciting pace. Also, the newsletter has been expanded with much more information and content. It was great to see our remaining Charter Member, Hank Rivet, receiving a commendation for his outstanding military career. Well done, Hank! While you are reading this newsletter, Exalted Ruler Greg, District Deputy Designate Linda, Lodge Secretary Tom and I will be in Atlanta learning new initiatives about the Elks.

Now for ENF news. We have received only two new gifts to the Elks National Foundation. A VERY GENEROUS gift from Brother Tom Clinton and also a gift from Dirck Van Duesen. Thank you both. Also, Brother Chris

## ENF

Linck and Sister Joanne Netzer and our four Fidelity Club members, ER Greg Collins, PER Brian Kirch, DDGER Linda Rowse and PDDGER Lawrence E. Rowse. If I have missed anyone, please inform me. For this Lodge year, we have received 38 gifts, totaling \$1,305.00, which gives us a per-capita of \$1.97, with 5.6% membership support. We have received \$11,000 for Lodge Grant Funds. Our District has donated \$1,901 for a per-capita of .756 cents. We have achieved 20% of our goal for the year. We are seeking only \$10.00 per Member. Please see Larry Rowse and give him your donation. He will make certain that you get credit for your donation with the Elks National Foundation and will see to it that your donation gets to the Elks National Foundation. You can give him a check made out to ENF. You can also mail your donation directly to the ENF. DO NOT SEND CASH!!!! Let's make our GOAL for ENF. DO YOUR PART AND MAKE A DONATION. Thank you. Lawrence E. Rowse, PDDGER Chairman, Elks National Foundation.



## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

We need to organize and plan more youth activities, if we want to hit our goals for the year. If you have kids, get them involved and bring them to the Lodge. We want to start an Antlers Program this year but need interested youth to participate in this effort. Talk to Marylou Hedge or Cheri Pierce Rigsbee to discuss any ideas that you may have!

## JULY BIRTHDAYS ARE YOU CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY IN JULY?

First	Last	Day
Clinton	Bonner	01
Patricia	Bourdeau	01
Karen	Downey	01
Willaim	Dushensky	02
Charles	Foote	02
Daniel	Meeham	02
Gary	VanVorst	02
Robert	Cronkhite	03
Garrett	Grilli	03
Tammy	Ives	03
Sheila	Kern	03
Timoty	Taney	03
Dominic	Indelicato	05
Michael	Guadagnino	06
Christine	Hendrick	07
Amy	Walsh	07
Judith	Craft	08
Patrick	Noonan	08
Emerson	Giddings LM	09

Richard	Saville	09
Raymond	Stammel	09
Aleisha	Bodway	10
Erika	Beardsley	14
Timothy	Clasby	12
George	Field Jr	12
George	Wagner	12
John	Grignon	14
John	Snyder LM	14
Alexander	Chupa LM	15
James	Thomas LM	15
Mary Jean	Willis PER	15
Christopher	Cosgrove	16
Samuel	Greco Jr	16
Paul	Sweet LM	16
Mary	Donnelly	17
Barbara	Fonda	17
Conor	Gosh	17
James	Meineker LM	17

Timothy	Keller	18
Anne	Kirch	18
Christianaa	Olsen	19
Barrie	Cuttler	20
Jennifer	Davis	20
Martin	Beberwyk LM	21
Evelyn	Miller	21
Joseph	Bellville	23
Christina	Scoons Hunt	23
John	Korzatowski	24
Nina	Walsh	24
Joseph	Kenyon	26
Carl	Goertz	27
Renea	Molineaux	27
Dennis	Kugler	28
Kurt	Nusbaum	29
Jeffrey	Haber	30
William	Hicks LM	30
Brian	Shabbott	31



## ENF Donor Hall of Fame: Cumulative Giving

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Mr. Robert D. Clow<br>Gold                   | 8. Mrs. Pamela A. Meineker<br>Honorary Founder      |
| 2. Mrs. Anna T. Collins<br>Honorary Founder     | 9. Mr. Joseph D. Murphy<br>Honorary Founder         |
| 3. Mr. Paul G. Erkkinen<br>Permanent Benefactor | 10. Mr. Lawrence E. Rowse<br>Permanent Benefactor   |
| 4. Mr. Bradley C. Lebrecht<br>Honorary Founder  | 11. Mrs. Linda M. Rowse<br>Permanent Benefactor     |
| 5. Mr. Christopher A. Linck<br>Silver           | 12. Mr. Charles C. VanBuren Jr.<br>Honorary Founder |
| 6. Mr. William J. Lyons III<br>Honorary Founder | 13. Mrs. Mary J. Willis<br>Honorary Founder         |
| 7. Mr. James E. Meineker<br>Honorary Founder    | 14. Mr. Peter D. Willis<br>Honorary Founder         |

## ENF Loyalty Club

Ongoing support ensures stronger communities well into the future. The ENF Loyalty Club encourages and celebrates long-term annual support by honoring donors who give annually for 10 or more consecutive fiscal years. Membership is based solely on consecutive annual giving regardless of donation amounts:

1. Mrs. Lorraine L. Cancilla - Consecutive Years: 13
2. Mr. Patrick Cancilla - Consecutive Years: 13
3. Mr. Christopher A. Linck - Consecutive Years: 13
4. Miss Jo Anne G. Netzer - Consecutive Years: 13

## ENF Donor Hall of Fame: Annual Giving

- |                                      |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Christopher A. Linck<br>Faith | 6. Mrs. Linda M. Rowse<br>Justice    |
| 2. Mr. Robert E. Muller<br>Justice   | 7. Mr. David Scalisi<br>Peace        |
| 3. Miss Jo Anne G. Netzer<br>Justice | 8. Mr. Gene R. Schultheis<br>Peace   |
| 4. Ms. Cheryl Pierce<br>Mercy        | 9. Mr. Patrick J. Skelley<br>Justice |
| 5. Mr. Lawrence E. Rowse<br>Justice  | 10. Mr. Paul W. Sweet<br>Justice     |

## ENF Fidelity Club

Honors Members of the ENF Fidelity Club, who support the ENF on a regular basis via direct debit or recurring credit card gifts:

1. Mrs. Linda Rowse
2. Mr. Lawrence Rowse
3. Mr. Gregory Collins
4. Mr. Brian Kirch

## ENF Grants Summary

We applied for four Elks National Foundation (ENF) grants so far and have successfully received the funding for all of them in the amount of \$11,000.

### SUMMARY

#### Beacon Grant:

\$4,000 for the 'Eileen L. Collins Summer Science Series' in coordination with the East Greenbush Community Library

#### Gratitude Grant:

\$2,000 for the Elks Dictionary Project for all local area 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students

#### Spotlight Grant:

\$2,000 for a Veterans Stand Down Event and personal care packs

#### Freedom Grants:

\$3,000 for Veterans Welcome Home Kits, toiletries, personal care items, food, clothing, and bedding.

## Current ENF Donors

Barry Betz Jr., Al Campisano, John Christiansen, Greg Collins, Tim Davis, Maria Fernandez, Dennis Gaige, Val Grugan, Kellynn Hickam, Earnest Kern, Sheila Kern, Brian Kirch, Chris Linck, Sharon Malinoski, Mark Mann, Paul Muzio, Mary Muzio, Joanne Netzer, Barrett Rowse, Christine Rowse, John Rowse, Lawrence E. Rowse, Linda Rowse, Morgan Rowse, Patrick Skelley, Emily Smith, Steven Smith, Paul Sweet, Andrea Vroman, Natalie Wagner, Gerald Wendel, Dena Peckham, Dirck Van Deusen, Thomas Clinton, Robert Clow, Joel Rigsbee, Cheryl Pierce Rigsbee, and Ronald Barner. Total = 39 Gifts



# Call For Help!

I recently spoke with the folks at Van Rensselaer Heights on Forbes Ave, in Rensselaer. They are located near Doane Stuart and have 106 low-income senior residents age 62+, many of whom are disabled. Their focus is on aiding residents with maintaining their independence and improving their quality of life. They have a need for help. Bryan Van Deusen took the lead in helping to build two new corn hole boards with the help of Patrick Skelley. I am asking our good Members to now donate an assortment of board games to the cause to help these folks out. A box will be provided in the lounge to maybe replace that old shoe receptacle.

Please let us know if you want to help. Other ways we may assist in the future?

- A back yard clean-up of their outdoor area
- Holiday meals cook and serve
- Book drive for their library
- BBQ event to cook and serve food
- Move furniture
- Community garden – they want to build a raised bed
- Community space – need activities like a bingo game and board games

## Awards

### Major Kevin P. Collins

Major Collins was recently awarded The Meritorious Service Medal for Outstanding Achievement for his work as part of the 109<sup>th</sup> Medical Group.



## Marylou Hedge



Our very own Marylou Hedge was recognized for her work with the Girl Scouts with an Honor Pin. This award recognizes a registered adult Girl Scout's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience which has had measurable impact on two or more geographic areas of service, allowing the council to reach and surpass its mission-delivery goals. Congratulations and very well deserved!

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Rocky Prinzo Golf Tournament

Notice to all of our Lodge golfers! This year, the Lodge will be hosting the First Annual Rocky Prinzo Memorial Golf Tournament. The event will be held on Friday, August 26th at the Old Kinderhook Golf Course and all proceeds will go to support our local Veterans. Registration will begin at 11:00 AM with a shotgun start at noon. A boxed lunch will be served prior to tee time, drinks will be served on the course, and afterwards a hamburger and hotdog cookout will be provided at 6:00 PM. The event is open to Members and their invited guests. For those not looking to golf but would rather attend the cookout, a reduced price will be offered. Items donated by members and the local community will be both raffled and offered up for silent auction.



Come join us to celebrate the legacy of a beloved and distinguished Elk while supporting our Veteran community and enjoying a fantastic day of golf!

More details to be provided soon, so keep your eyes on the Lodge event board.

Regards,  
Patrick Skelley, Lecturing Knight

## Music + Golf Game



We recently upgraded the juke box system to a newer model with three higher quality speakers with more controllable zones. We are exploring an upgrade to our simulator golf game to the just-launched 2022 PGA Tour. The new game will feature all officially licensed PGA courses, with a 55" screen with edge lighting and everything high resolution 4K monitor. Also, you can pay with dollar bills or built in "tap to pay" with credit card

This is a significant investment. While we are happy to do this for our Members, it does carry with it some revenue requirements to hit. Basically, we would need to double the amount of business we are doing on a monthly basis. The easiest way to ensure this is to create weekly golf league on the simulator. First, who would be interested in obtaining this game? And second, who would be willing to organize a regular league?

# More Golf: Bunkers In Baghdad

Bunkers in Baghdad is a not-for-profit charity that collects and sends new and used golf balls, clubs, and equipment to our troops around the world, with a focus on the brave men and women currently serving in combat zones. Bunkers also supplies golf equipment to Wounded Warriors Programs around the country to aid in the rehabilitation of our injured veterans. Let's do a golf ball drive and support this cause.

On the Web: <http://www.bunkersinbaghdad.com/>

## Cigar Club



Join us on Tuesday nights at 6:00 PM at the BBQ pit for an evening of good cigars while the weather is nice. We will sip some drinks, listen to some tunes and solve the world's problems one glorious puff at a time. Bonus: The first round of cigars is on the house...

## Language!

Please be aware of your language at the bar and particularly be respectful of our female Members. They don't want to hear cursing all day at the bar. This is also a stern reminder that rude, offensive, hostile, racist, sexist or homophobic remarks are not tolerated in our Lodge. Further, physically aggressive behavior of any sort will not be tolerated. We are a fraternal Order. Please behave accordingly. We have implemented a "Swear Jar" to benefit ENF for those egregious offenders to be applied based on the bartender's discretion. Please also be advised that our Club does have a dress code at events and rude, vile, or offensive T-shirts should not be worn. We have children, ladies, and members of the public in our Lodge these days. Let's raise the bar on this...

## Vaping



Please be aware that vaping is not allowed in the bar or lounge area under any circumstances. Please be respectful of our other guests and go outside. Bartenders have been asked to enforce this policy.

## Would You Rather?

- Lodge Hop to Gloucester Lodge #892
- Frank Sinatra Night
- Giants vs. Ravens Bus Trip
- Turning Stone Bus Trip

Let the ER know...

## Flag Day Recap



On Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, we held a wonderful Flag Day Ceremony as required by Grand Lodge, with about 100 people in attendance. Congressman Paul Tonko, an Amsterdam Elk, was on hand to give the keynote address. Rensselaer County Court Judge and Member, Debra Young, offered the response. We honored 98-year-old Veteran and our last surviving Charter Member, Hank Rivet with the Rensselaer Elks Citizen of the Year Award. Congressman Tonko provided a Proclamation from the House of Representatives. Rensselaer County Legislator and Member, Tom Grant, offered an additional Proclamation. The Girl Scouts of East Greenbush, with Arianna Nardacci, Autumn Lang and Maya Derico, provided the history of the Flag. Columbia High School Student, Sophia Hamilton showcased her signing talents with some patriotic music. Photographer / Veteran, Joshua Hoffman, took pictures of the event. We gave out \$5,000 from our own Lodge funds in scholarships to eight local high school seniors from four local schools including:

**Jacob White**

**Hannah Crupi**

*Averill Park High School*

**Charles Welcome**

**Carly Coyne**

*Columbia High School*

**Ethan Wilkinson**

**Rebecca Hall**

*Maple Hill High School*

**Gael-Pera Reyes**

**Sierra Riley**

*Rensselaer High School*

Special thanks to all who helped make this event happen especially to Marylou Hedge for all her work along with Cheri Pierce Rigsbee and Lisa Canfield. Also, thank you to Bob Myron, Brian Kirch, Steve Slater, Kammi Phillips, Len Welcome and Ed Serian for preparing the food.





Night Fun  
Continues

Jimmy Walsh recently added some new sand, and the outdoor horse-shoe pits are now up and running! Stop by on Wednesday nights from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM to align forces with the Corn Holers and toss some shoes. Let's keep the parking lot party rolling all summer long...

## ACTIVITIES

Thank you to the Activities Committee for all of the work they do behind the scenes to pull off events, plan and organize them and dress them up with all the little details. Your work does not go unnoticed and is definitely appreciated by our Members!

## Communication Breakdown

We have a number of ways to keep Members informed about the things going on at the Lodge. First, there is the God-awful cork board. This is a good option for the regulars that come into the Lodge. They usually know what's going on. Next, is the monthly newsletter. We have a lot going on these days – that's why the newsletter is as long as it is. We added in two months' worth of events to keep things on the radar and allow time to plan. This option favors those with a workable desktop computer system or a tablet. The newsletter wasn't designed to be viewed on a cell phone or even for print purposes, hence the font size. After that, we have a website at [www.2073elks.com](http://www.2073elks.com). On the site, you will find a very detailed monthly, public-facing calendar. We try to leave a few print copies of that calendar in the lounge. The best option for most people is probably to follow our Rensselaer Elks Facebook page @2073elks. We post a lot of things there to keep you up to date, moment by moment. This is a good choice for tech-savvy grandmas, anyone who is middle aged, and soccer moms. Finally, we have periodic e-mail blasts that get sent out last minute. Mine go into my "Promotions" spam folder to make it somewhat tough to detect. By all means, come to a meeting where things get discussed, if you like. Please note that regrettably we cannot mail out handwritten invitations or call you personally. If you don't know what's going on at the Lodge, please ask. Tell the others too...



## All American Lodge Update

We have made a lot of progress in working towards our goal of becoming an All American Lodge. With that being said, we will need to pick up the pace if we want to have any chance of hitting our target. In particular, we need much more activity on the following fronts:

- \* Veterans Events = 20 events for maximum points
- \* Youth Activities = 30 events for maximum points
- \* Americanism = 20 events for maximum points

This is something that will require an effort from our entire Lodge to attain. While I will continue to press forward with my respective committees, we could use some assistance from the Trustees, PERs, Officers, Bartenders, and the General Membership. Attend a Veterans breakfast. Arrange a Veterans breakfast at the Lodge. Take some Veterans golfing. Plan an easy kid's event, like an ice cream party. Hand out American Flags on the fourth of July. It all counts! If you want to get involved, please talk to the ER. Thank you for all of your help in advance.

## Family Carnival

We are in the midst of planning a good old fashion family carnival - Elks style - for Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 4:00 PM in the pavilion / outdoor grounds area. What a great summer family activity while planning and building your carnival booth activity. Families of all sizes are welcome.

Every family that contributes a booth will get a set amount of free chances to play games. If you need booth ideas, we can assist! Prizes will be available for children and adults. Let's continue to build family friendly and kid-focused activities at our Lodge. Proceeds will go to benefit our charitable works.



## Oh, What a Night...

We are quietly building one of the best (albeit only) Ladies Night's in the area each month. We have held two so far and they seem to be well received. Dudes, if you have a special lady in your life, please encourage her to attend the festivities. Good music is offered, along with lite / medium fare, specialty cocktails and a red rose. We want to show our Members and prospective Members that the Club is open to all people and there are fun events to suit a wide audience. We continue to hear some females telling us that they didn't even know they were able to join. Let's fix that and make them feel welcome. Ladies, please support this event and consider bringing friends with you as your invited guests. We have heard your feedback and will plan to have two bartenders at these events going forward.

## Community Wide Call to Fly the U.S. Flag

Following up on a wonderful Flag Day Ceremony at our Lodge, I want to ask for your help. Please join with us in honoring the American Flag by displaying it proudly and prominently at your home and office location. As I have traveled across our town, I have noticed that many businesses sadly do not have a U.S. Flag flying. My hope is for us, as Rensselaer Elks, to remind local businesses and residents of the importance of the Flag and ask them to join in our mission to have as many Flags flying in town as possible. Recently, we have been giving out certificates, produced by the Grand Lodge, to businesses that properly fly the Flag. This is a start, but more needs to be done!



## How to Treat Volunteers



It frustrates me when a Member tells me they they tried to volunteer but got turned down "because we don't need you." This is unkind and a reason people don't volunteer to help. I get that folks have their tight knit work crews that work well together; no problem. However, we are trying to add support to the House Committee and cultivate new talent. Many

hands make light work. There is always some way to get others involved. Always! If nothing else, show them what you are doing, involve them in the process so that they can learn that skill and perhaps do it later on their own. A little bit of time and patience, an open mind, and some guidance go a long way as an investment in our future. I can't tell you how many "would-be" volunteers have backed away from helping because they were treated poorly.

Bob and the House Committee are more than willing to train volunteers on the new equipment...

## Chicken BBQ Fundraiser

Let's sell out for a Lodge's general fundraiser event: half chickens on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. Eat in or pick up.

More details to follow soon...




# JULY 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	Elks National Convention Atlanta, GA 2
Elks National Convention Atlanta, GA 3 Breakfast 9:00 – 11:00 AM	Elks National Convention Atlanta, GA 4	Elks National Convention Atlanta, GA 5	Elks National Convention Atlanta, GA 6 Red Cross Blood Drive 1:30—6:30 PM	Bingo 5:00 PM 7	8	EGPD Bicycle Rodeo 9 10:00 AM
Breakfast 9:00—11:00 AM Chicken BBQ 10	Lodge Meeting 7:30 PM 11	12	13	Bingo 5:00 PM 14	15	16
Breakfast 9:00—11:00 AM Kitchen Training / Org 11:30 AM 17	18	19	Veterans Picnic 1:00 PM 20	Bingo 5:00 PM 21	Karaoke Night 7:30 PM 22	23
Breakfast 9:00—11:00 AM 24	Lodge Initiation 6:30 PM 25	26	27	Bingo 5:00 PM 28	29	30
Breakfast 9:00—11:00 AM 31 Donate Life Meeting 3:00 PM						

# AUGUST 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	Bingo 5:00 PM 4	5	ER Birthday Bash 7:00 PM 6
Breakfast 9:00—11:00 AM 7	Lodge Meeting 7:30 PM 8	9	10	Bingo 5:00 PM 11	Karaoke Night 7:30 PM 12	Family Carnival 12:00 PM 13
Breakfast 9:00—11:00 AM 14	15	16	17	Bingo 5:00 PM 18	19	EGPD Car Seat Safety Check 10:00 AM 20
Breakfast 9:00—11:00 AM 21	22	Ladies Night 6:00 PM 23	24	Bingo 5:00 PM 25	26	Steak Bake 27
Breakfast 9:00—11:00 AM 28	Lodge Initiation 6:30 PM 29	30	31			



**CONTACT US**

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## NEWSLETTER SUPPORTERS CLUB

### March 2023

Sue Polsinello  
*In Memory of PER Floyd M Smith*

### April 2022

Cindy Jeffries  
Dave Jeffries

Carol McKay  
Lester McKay

Sue Polsinello  
Tom Grant

Rockefeller Funeral Home

Rockefeller Funeral Home

George Wagner

Marshall Wagner

Michael Wagner

Frank Heller

*In Memory of Fred Hutchinson*

Walt Myers

### May 2022

JoAnne Netzer

*In Memory of Francis A. Netzer and*

*John Tiro*

Lawrence E. Rowse, PDDGER

Linda M. Rowse, SVP

John J. Rowse

Barrett L. Rowse

Christine Rowse

Morgan P. Rowse

Kellynn Rowse Hickam

Emily Rowse Smith

Steven Smith

Sharon Malinoski

Brian P. Rowse

*In Memory of*

*E. Kevin Rowse*

*Gertrude B. Rowse*

*Kevin B. Rowse*

*M/Sgt. Thomas C. Rowse, USMC*

*William C. Rowse*

### June 2022

*Richard C. Carpinello (2022)*

*In Memory of Albert W. Carpinello*

### September 2022

Alan Hedge

Marylou Hedge

Steven Hedge

Brian Hedge

### October 2022

Jay Staggs

*for Rich Bedell and Frank Harper*

Patricia McCall

*In Memory of Leon Cellerly, PER*

*Charles Van Buren*

The Past Exalted Rulers of  
Rensselaer Lodge remember their  
Past State and National Leaders:

Jay Amodeo, PSP

George D'Ambrose, PSVP

Frank P. Lill, PSVP

Alexander Seney, PDDGER

Raymond Daley, PDDGER

Wray E. Tibbetts, PDDGER

Veronica Adriance, PDDGER

Charter Member Hank Rivet

### February 2022

David Kretschmar

For only \$5 a year! Your name will appear that month you sign up until the Year 2022! You can also put it "in memory of" a loved one! When the month approaches where your name is listed is when you owe \$5 to renew and be a Supporter for another year. (To those that have already renewed—you are paid through "your month" in 2021). To join – send \$5 to the Lodge.

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Is Published Monthly by

BPOE Lodge #2073

**TOM NARDACCI, PDDGER**

**SECRETARY**

**ALAN HEDGE**

**EDITOR**

**RENSSELAER**

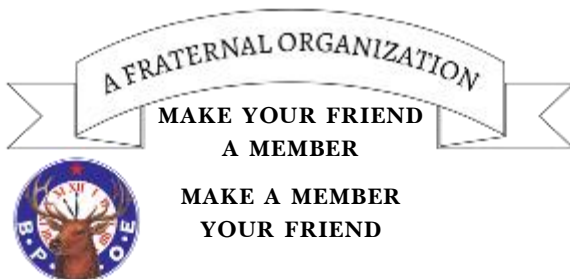
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