

# Rensselaer Elks Lodge #2073



# LETTER Charity | Justice | Brotherly Love | Fidelity April 2024 | VOLUME 276

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Greetings Lodge Members,

I am humbled by your trust and energized by our shared vision, I am honored to accept the role of Exalted Ruler of our esteemed lodge. This position is not just a title, but a commitment—a promise to each of you that I will serve with integrity, dedication, and a collaborative spirit.

ER's Message

The year ahead is brimming with potential. Together, we will embark on initiatives that strengthen our bonds, enhance our community outreach, and uphold the values that are the cornerstone of our organization. We will foster an environment where every voice is heard, and every member feels valued.

Our journey will be one of progress and perseverance. We will celebrate our triumphs and learn from our challenges. Through it all, our unity will be our strength, and our collective efforts will shape a future as bright as the aspirations that unite us.

Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility. Let us move forward with purpose, passion, and the unwavering belief that our best days lie ahead.

Ensuring that every member feels valued is key to a thriving and inclusive organization. Here are some strategies I feel are important:

Listening: Show genuine interest in members' ideas and concerns. Encourage open dialogue and provide a platform where everyone can speak and be heard.

Recognition: Acknowledge contributions, big or small, through public appreciation or awards. This can boost morale and show members that their efforts are noticed.

Involvement: Involve members in decision-making processes. This not only empowers them but also brings diverse perspectives to the table.

Communication: Tailor communications to address members individually. This personal touch can make members feel more connected to the lodge.

Feedback: Implement a system where members can provide feedback anonymously. This can help identify areas of improvement and address any issues promptly.

Social Events: Organize social events and activities that are not just work-related. This can help strengthen relationships and create a sense of community.

**Development**: Offer opportunities for members to grow, such as workshops, training or mentorship. Transparency: I plan to be transparent about lodge operations and decisions. This builds trust and shows members that they are a part of the lodge's journey.

Remember, this is all about creating an environment where members feel supported, respected, and integral to the lodge's success.

God Bless and protect our members, our troops. God Bless America.

Fraternally, Paul Muzio Cell (518)527-4524 Pmuzio5@gmail.com

#### **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."

## **LODGE OFFICERS**

Exalted Ruler	Paul Muzio			
Leading Knight	Steve Frese			
Loyal Knight	Gerald Wendel			
Lecturing Knight	Cheri Pierce Rigsbee			
Esquire	Barry Betz Jr.			
Chaplain	Al Campisano			
Inner Guard	Joel Rigsbee			
Tiler	Jude Kanaly			
Secretary	Tom Nardacci, PDDGER			
Treasurer	John Christiansen, PER			
House Chair	Sheri Smith			
Newsletter Editor	Patrick Skelley			
Trustees				
5-Year Trustee	Chuck Adams, PER			
4-Year Trustee	Ronald Barner, PER			
2 V T	Dana Murphy			
3-Year Trustee	Dana Murphy			
2-Year Trustee	Dana Murphy  Jim Walsh			

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Committee	Chair			
Accident Prevention	Chris Linck			
Activities Committee	Open			
Adopt-A-Highway	Brian Kirch, PER			
Adopt-A-Family	Angie Vroman			
Adopt-a-Neighborhood	Jason Terrence			
Americanism	Mary Jean Willis, PER			
Antlers Program	Elaine Rudzinski			
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, DDGER			
Christmas Party	Nancy Hunt			
Cigar Tasting	Bryan Van Deusen			
Coats for Kids	Shelley Viola			
Community Activities	Bob Myron, PER			
Community Awards	Chris Linck			
Dart League	Conrad Jones			
Drug Awareness	Barry Betz Jr.			
Elks National Foundation	Lawrence E. Rowse, PDDGER			
Elk Training	Dave Hilker, PER			
Entertainment	Open			
Flag Day	Marylou Hedge			
Fraternal	Cheri Pierce Rigsbee			
Fundraising	Open			
<b>Government Relations</b>	Tom Grant / Phil Danaher			
Grants	Greg Collins			
Grounds	James Walsh			
Hoop Shoot	Scott Galarneau			
Ladies Night	Patti Embree			

House Chair	Sheri Smith		
Indoctrination	Linda Rowse, DDD		
Internet / Electronic	Dominic Indelicato		
Justice	Joseph Slater		
Kids Coaching Program	Cheryl Higgins		
Lapsation	Lawrence E. Rowse, PDDGER		
Liquor Steward	Jeff Grugan		
Lodge Historian	Ronald Barner, PER		
Lottery	Chris Adams		
Major Projects	Jerry Wendel		
Marketing	Open		
Meat Raffle	Steve Frese		
Membership	Open		
Memorial Sunday	Jack Coyne		
National Veterans	Cheri Pierce Rigsbee		
Newsletter Editor	Patrick Skelley		
Pavilion Restoration	Paul Muzio		
PER Association	Brian Kirch, PER		
Public Relations	Greg Collins		
Recreation	Ronald Barner, PER		
Ritual	Tom Nardacci, PDDGER		
Scholarship	Lori Bishop		
Sickness and Distress	James Walsh		
Soccer Shoot	Open		
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		

# Support Your Lodge!

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

## **LODGE INFORMATION**

Website:	www.2073elks.org				
Telephone:	(518) 477-9947				
ER Paul Muzio:	pmuzio5@gmail.com				
Lodge E-mail:	2073elks@gmail.com				
Newsletter:	renss.elksnewsletter@gmail.com				
Events:	housechairmanelks2073@gmail.com				
Mailing Address:	683 Columbia Turnpike East Greenbush, NY 12061				
Lodge Hours:	Sun through Wed 2 PM – 8 PM; Thurs 2 —10 PM; Fri and Sat 2 PM —12 AM				
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 of each month at 6:30 PM				
Facebook:	@2073elks	Linked In:	2073elks		
Twitter:	@2073elks	Tik Tok:	2073elks		
Snap Chat:	2073elks Pinterest: @2073elks				

#### **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 certain 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.

#### TIP OF THE ANTLERS

- ⇒ A huge shoutout and special thanks to Michael Guadagnino, Chairperson of the Super Bowl Tailgate Party, the Bingo Committee, Paul Muzio, and Patrick Skelley for holding their 2nd Annual Super Bowl Party on February 11 to benefit our Lodge's Youth Programs. Many thanks to all our members who handled Super Bowl square tickets, chips, and square boards in the back room. We also thank all the members who brought a dish to share. Finally, we are always grateful for our bartenders who always work hard to keep attendees hydrated! A great time was had by all who attended. Thanks for thinking of our children and supporting their activities and programs at the Lodge!
- ⇒ Thank you Len Smith for donating over 100 bags for use in assembling VA Inpatient Cabin Fever Goodie Bags.
- ⇒ Thank you Moose Opitz for donating over 100 new decks of cards for the Cabin Fever Goodie Bags.
- ⇒ Thank you Joel Rigsbee for shopping for snacks and beverages to fill the Cabin Fever Goodie Bags.
- Thank you to Linda Weber for taking the initiative and lead for ordering Elks shirts for interested members.
- Thank you to our Antlers, Michelle and JJ Miller, for initiating the Antlers Easter Basket Drive to benefit the less fortunate families who rely on Rensselaer Street Soldiers for food and other household items.
- ⇒ Thank you Sue Miller for collecting \$220 in donations from the Dart League for the Antlers' Easter Basket Drive to benefit Rensselaer Street Soldiers. Thanks, too, for doing all the shopping for so many great Easter Basket Goodies, Sue!
- ⇒ Thank you to our newest Antlers, Nolan and Rowen, for Raffling Easter items on Thursday nights' Bingo to raise money for the Easter Basket Drive. Thanks to the Bingo Committee for allowing the Raffles, and special thanks to the Bingo patrons for always supporting our Lodge's activities and events!
- ⇒ Thanks to Joe Miller and Joel Rigsbee for doing all our heavy work to load in, set up, break down, and clean up our four tables at the Street Soldiers event!
- Thanks to Tom Nardacci, Tim Davis, and Jim Walsh for purchasing a new U.S. Flag for display on our Lodge's flagpole.

#### **MARCH QUARTER POOL**

01	3372	17	2925			
02	3282	18	3037			
03	3023	19	No draw			
04	3290	20	2141			
05	2903	21	3555			
06	3302	22	1838			
07	3528	23	2331			
08	2273	24	No draw			
09	3642	25	3097			
10	3530	26	2029			
11	2459	27	3279			
12	2595	28	2855			
13	No draw	<b>29</b> 1487				
14	3370	30	2923			
15	3614	31	No draw			
16	2870					
Three Winners!						



We have a critical need for help! Please contact the House Committee Chair or ER to find out ways you may get involved. The Lodge only functions because of the hard work of our Members. It isn't fair to tax the same people for all tasks all year long. They need a break!

- Cook chicken wings or hot dogs
- Chaperone a party
- Clean up after an event
- Fill up care packs for Vets
- Volunteer for a youth activity
- Be a server

### **BINGO REPORT – MARCH**

Events: 4

Players: 364

Gross Receipts: \$12,566

Prizes: \$9,561

Net: \$4,423

Kitchen Gross: \$2,428



#### SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

Please keep Bryan Kirkland in your thoughts and prayers as he undergoes triple bypass surgery very soon.

Please contact the Lodge for any sickness and distress notices 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!

# **House Committee Report**

#### FROM THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

#### **Hours**

The Lodge hours are as follows:

Mon, Tue, Wed from 2:00pm-8:00pm

Monday Lodge Meeting night (2nd Monday of the month) and Friday and Saturday nights, the hours will be 2:00pm–10:00pm Thursday BINGO nights 2:00pm-10:00pm

Sunday 12:00pm - 8:00pm during NFL Sundays

#### **Monthly Friday Dinner**

Friday dinners are always welcome, asking for Volunteers, anyone looking to host, contact Sheri Smith-Wager or Paul Muzio for assistance/planning.

#### **Bookings**

We had 7 event bookings in March. Many thanks to ALL our House Committee members and others for all you do for our lodge.

#### MARCH:

Revenue \$ 6,374.16 Expenses \$ 3,640.50 Net Profit \$ 2,733.66

#### **House Committee**

It's April 2024. Join me in welcoming the New House Committee Chairperson, Sheri Smith-Wager, may her year be full of successes. The Committee is ready to handle bookings for the coming months, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Graduations, Weddings, Baby Showers. Summer Booking dates are slim, now is the time to reserve the Pavilion or Hall for your future upcoming event. The House Committee stands ready to assist all our members with any type of event.

THANK YOU to my House Committee members in making this past year a complete success.

Volunteers are ALWAYS needed, step up and say I'd like to help or at least learn!

Hope to hear or see you soon.

Fraternally,

Paul Muzio

**House Committee** 

# **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 <a href="mailto:renss.elksnewsletter@gmail.com">renss.elksnewsletter@gmail.com</a>

## 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 or place in mailbox by the bar.

# **Lodge Updates**

## Message from the Chaplain

I genuinely appreciate the trust given to me for fulfilling the position of Chaplain for 2023-24. I knew it would be challenging following Al Campisano, who will always be our Chappy; but I did my best to fulfill my duties and thoroughly enjoyed serving our Lodge and its members.

I'd like to leave you with a quote by Denzel Washington:

"You never see a U-Haul behind a hearse. You can't take it with you; and be it money, talent, patience, love, whatever your gift is, you can't take it with you. So, what are you going to do with it when you're here? Who have you lifted up? Who have you made better? Who have you helped out? Not how much do you have, but what you have. Some people have love, some have patience, some have money, some have fame. Whatever your talent is, we all have something. Help your fellow man. At the end of the day, none of us are perfect, or none of us are angels, but you do the best you can with what you have."

Sincerely, Cheri Pierce Rigsbee, Chaplain (2023-24)

### **Antlers and Lodge Members Volunteered for Rensselaer Street Soldiers**

On Saturday, March 16, Antlers and Lodge members were up and out early to volunteer at the monthly Rensselaer Street Soldiers event!

Those in attendance were Michelle Miller (Antlers Vice President), Sue & Joe Miller, Liz Koenig, and Cheri & Joel Rigsbee. Hundreds of baskets, eggs, candy, and toys fill our four tables!

Once again, we thank our Lodge members who donated Easter items and/or money during the Dart League and Bingo collections!



## **Antlers Preparing for the Arrival of the Easter Bunny!**



The Antlers assisted with preparations for the Lodge's Annual Easter Egg Hunt; nearly 1,000 eggs were "hidden" for youngsters beginning at the age of 4 months old!

# **Lodge Updates**

## Hip Hip Hooray for Rensselaer Elks Bingo Committee!

It's no secret Bingo is a high revenue producer for our Lodge! Headed by Bingo Chairman Mark Mann, the Committee provides an evening of fun and funds for so many players who travel the Bingo circuit throughout the Capital District.

The Committee works cohesively to provide excellent customer service AND gives back to the community by donating all their weekly tips to numerous charitable organizations, including but not limited to, many Veterans initiatives and organizations, Coats for Kids, St. Baldricks Foundation (childhood cancer initiatives), and the newly created Casey Frankoski Memorial Scholarship Fund, just to name a few recent donations. In addition to their monetary donations, they provide little surprises for all their players around the holidays. It's also important to mention, our Bingo is handicapped accessible and all inclusive. Personal attention given to group home visitors is touching and appreciated.



While it's important to extend thanks and praise to fellow Elks members for their hard work, it's also nice to receive feedback from non-members. So here you go,

Bingo Committee Members, this is the "word on the streets" and seems to be the consensus of your players:

"Love me some bingo and the Elks is by far my favorite!! EVERYONE goes above and beyond every Thursday night!! From their fund raising to their generosity for everyone including bingo players!! They take care of us with gestures such as small individual gifts for certain holidays to special raffles just for us. Trust me the small gestures go a long way and it makes bingo players feel appreciated too!! Definitely a Coverall for me!! "" Deb B.

"The Rensselaer Elks is a very friendly bingo; the workers on the floor and in the kitchen are always accommodating to their bingo players. They always thank us for supporting them which no other bingo hall does. I always tell people about them." 
Dawn F.



"The bingo at the Rensselaer Elks is like no other! From bingo workers to the kitchen, it's always a great night... here you are not just a bingo player, you are family!" ~Amanda W.

"The members of the Elks Lodge 2073 that contribute their personal time to facilitate the smooth (although sometimes not, but always good for a laugh) running of Thursday night Bingo are in my opinion some of the best around. They are friendly & courteous. They always go above and beyond for their members, the bingo patrons and most notably the local charitable organizations they donate to. I cannot even single one member out because they should All be recognized for their service!" "Cindy W. A faithful Thursday night Bingo Player. (except for the past few weeks as I am recovering from surgery. But looking forward to returning as soon as I am able.)

"I have been going there for several years. In fact, it was the first bingo my grand-mother took me to many, many years ago! LOL Our little group, which includes Debbie, goes every week. We love the games! The food is good! And the Elks members are a great bunch of people! Looking forward to many more years of attending!" ~Lynn A.

So, there you have it - the players have spoken - B-I-N-G-O!

Cheri Pierce Rigsbee, Lecturing Knight (2024-25)

# **Lodge Updates**

#### Veterans to Get Free Admission to NYS Parks

NY's Lifetime Liberty Pass Program gives Veterans and Gold Star families free access to NYS parks, campgrounds, day use areas, historic sites, and recreation areas. Program Benefits include:

- Free vehicle entry to State Parks and DEC-operated campgrounds and day use areas, as well as State boat launch sites, historic sites, arboretums, and park preserves.
- Free greens fees at State Park-operated golf courses.
- Free swimming pool entrance at State Park-operated pools.
- Discounted campsite and cabin rentals at State Park/DEC-operated campgrounds.

Veterans can access these benefits by presenting a NYS DMV photo ID, with Veteran status designation, to employees at all staffed facilities.

Visit the NYS DMV website, if you do not have the designation on your ID; or, apply for the free Lifetime Liberty Pass to ensure easy entry into State Parks. NYS Gold Star parents, spouses, or children can also apply for the free Lifetime Liberty Pass.

Cheri Pierce Rigsbee, Chair, Veterans Services Committee

### Message from the Drug Awareness Program Chairman

I would like to take a moment to thank you for your regular participation in our annual drug awareness program, drug take back days. But, did you know, local pharmacies as well as the East Greenbush police department have Drop boxes for unused & unneeded prescription medications?

Proper disposal of prescription drugs is the first step to the prevention of prescription drugs abuse including but not limited drug overdose.

If you have questions, comments feel free to reach out to me at <a href="mailto:BarryBetz2073@gmail.com">BarryBetz2073@gmail.com</a> or phone number (518)894-9416

Fraternally,

Barry Betz Jr.

Drug Awareness Program Chairman

#### **Easter Breakfast**

The PERs hosted a very successful Easter breakfast with the Easter Bunny on Sunday. Many thanks to Angie Vroman, Marylou Hedge, Janet Budd, Gary Wager, Ed Serian and Patti Embree for their help in setting up the tables, food and serving and clean up.

Special thanks to PERs Chuck Adam's. CJ Jones, John Christiansen, Bob Myron, Dave Hilker and Tim Davis for cooking and serving. Tip of the Antlers to Nina Walsh for hopping in to serve as our Easter Bunny on short notice Great job everyone!

God Bless,

PER Brian



# **April 2024**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 House Committee Meeting 6:00pm	3	4 Bingo 5pm	5	6
7 Breakfast 9:00— 11:00am	8 Lodge Meeting 7:30pm	9 Patti Embree Go- ing Away Party	10	11 Bingo 5pm	12	13
14 Breakfast 9:00— 11:00am	15	16	17	18 Bingo 5pm	19	20
21 Breakfast 9:00- 11:00am	22	23	24	25 Bingo 5pm	26	27
28 Breakfast 9:00— 11:00am	29	30				







# **May 2024**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
				Bingo 5pm	Pizza Night	SVP Homecom- ing
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Breakfast 9:00— 11:00am	Red Cross Blood Drive	House Committee Meeting 6:00pm		Bingo 5pm		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Mother's Day Break- fast 9:00—11:30am	Lodge Meeting 7:30pm			Bingo 5pm		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Breakfast 9:00- 11:00am				Bingo 5pm		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Breakfast 9:00— 11:00am	Memorial Day			Bingo 5pm		







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## **NEWSLETTER SUPPORTERS CLUB**

January 2024 in Memory of David L. Riffey March 2023 Sue Polsinello

in Memory of PER Floyd M Smith

April 2022 Cindy Jeffries Dave Jeffries

Carol McKay Lester McKay

Sue Polsinello Rockefeller Funeral Home Rockefeller Funeral Home George Wagner

Michael Wagner

in Memory of Francis A. Netzer and

Lawrence E. Rowse, PDDGER Linda M. Rowse, DDGER

John J. Rowse Barrett L. Rowse

Christine Rowse Morgan P. Rowse

Emily Rowse Smith

Sharon Malinoski Brian P. Rowse

Gertrude B. Rowse Kevin B. Rowse

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

Richard C. Carpinello (2022) In Memory of Albert W. Carpin

September 2022 Alan Hedge

Marylou Hedge Steven Hedge

October 2022

Jay Stagg

Charles Van Buren

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

George D'Ambrose, PSVF

Jav Amodeo, PSP

Alexander Seney, PDDGER Raymond Daley, PDDGER Wray E. Tibbetts, PDDGER

Charter Member Hank Rivet

For only \$5 a year! Your name will appear that month you sign up until the Year 2025! 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 2023). To join—send \$5 to the Lodge.

Rensselaer Elks News Is Published Monthly by BPOE Lodge #2073

TOM NARDACCI, PDDGER **SECRETARY** PATRICK SKELLEY **EDITOR** 

# RENSSELAER LODGE OF

B.P.O.E Lodge No. 2073 683 COLUMBIA TURNPIKE EAST GREENBUSH, NY 12061

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