



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Three and a half years ago—yes, three and a half years ago!—Rick Smith had an idea that would turn into something truly special for our lodge. With dedication, vision, and a whole lot of elbow grease, Rick took on the challenge of launching a Massachusetts Lottery-sanctioned and approved Bingo program—and what a success it became.

Every Monday, without fail, Rick made Bingo happen for people from Falmouth, Martha's Vineyard, and well beyond. He poured countless hours into purchasing machines, boards, paper, tickets, pull-tabs, daubers, tape—you name it, Rick handled it. He set up roughly 20 tables and close to 100 chairs week after week. Honestly, the only thing he didn't do was sit down and play Bingo!

But what truly set Rick apart was his heart. He made sure our older players were cared for—helping them into the hall, getting chairs just right, and making certain everyone felt safe, comfortable, and welcome. Much of Rick's work happened quietly behind the scenes, unseen by most, yet absolutely essential to every successful Bingo night.

Now, after three and a half years of doing about 90% of what it takes to run Bingo each and every week, Rick is stepping back for a well-earned break—and he has more than earned it.

The lodge owes Rick a HUGE THANK YOU for his tireless effort, generosity, and commitment.

The Bingo Committee thanks him from the bottom of our hearts. So if you see Rick in the building, don't let the moment pass—shake his hand, give him a smile, and say thank you for a job extraordinarily well done!

Fraternally yours,
The Bingo Committee

Beginning Membership 4/1/2025: **594**

Initiated 24
Affiliated 4
Reinstated 6
Dropped 0
Transferred Out 6
Absolute Dimit 0
Deaths 11
Expelled 0
Membership Total **611**
Average Age: 65

LIFE MEMBERS

Life Members 77
Honorary Life Members 4
Total 81
Life Percentage 13.64%

LAPSATION RATE: 6.23%

Delinquency:
6 months 0
One year: 36
Over one year: 1

Mail a check made payable for **\$118.00, \$60.00** (Life and Honorary Life), or **\$39.25** for active Military Members to the Falmouth Elks to:

Falmouth Elks Lodge
Attn: David Branga
140 Palmer Avenue
Falmouth, MA 02540

BALLOTING & INITIATION

The following candidates will be initiated at the PER Night Meeting on February 4th:

Jennefier Lee Devin
Charles Satbeno
Albert Carey

The following candidate will be initiated at the meeting on March 18th:

Melissa Fire

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

As of this writing, Falmouth is currently 3rd in the State and 2nd in the District at \$16.09 per member giving, having donated a total of \$9,561.42 year to date to the ENF. Great job, please keep the donations coming in, especially as we approach dues season!

If you are interested in joining the Fidelity Club and starting a recurring monthly donation you can do so here. Please follow this link:

[Make a Recurring Gift - Elks National Foundation](https://enfelks.org/recurring) or copy and paste this to find the page to sign up: enfelks.org/recurring

Fraternally Yours,
Dana C. Nielsen
Treasurer/ENF Chairman

Please include your membership number on your check.

When paying dues don't forget to add your donation to ENF (or send a separate check, made out to the **Elks National Foundation**) for \$25. ENF donations help the Lodge meet its Per Capita goal and qualify for ENF Grants to use for community events.

If you prefer to donate to the Lodge directly, please include a separate check made out to the lodge and note in the memo line what the donation is for: General Fund, Veterans, or Scholarship.

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, or are not receiving the newsletter, contact the Lodge Secretary to make sure the correct email address is on file.

PAYMENT OF DUES ONLINE

You can now pay your dues online using the Grand Lodge payment system! It is fast, easy and secure!
Go to <https://secure.directbill.com/db-payer-ui/#/login>

Select your Lodge and pay with a credit or debit card.
Don't forget to include a donation to ENF of \$25 or more with your payment!

NOTICE:

Dues for 2026-2027
Regular Members \$118.00
Life Members \$60.00
Active Military Members \$39.25

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2026

Feb 1st 1pm-5pm

3rd Annual Chilifest

Feb 4th

PER Night

Nominations of Officers 2026-2027

February 25th

BBQ Dinner

By Rory Maguire

March 21st

Members Appreciation Time TBD

March 25th

Lasagna Night

By John Womboldt

Dates TBD

Installation of Officers

LODGE OF SORROW



“Never forgotten, Never Forsaken”

William “Billy” Newton , PER

James McDevitt

Tina Stuart

Ray Mayo

“To Our Absent Members”

FROM THE EXALTED RULER

Members All,

I hope you are all staying safe and warm this winter season. A great way to warm up is by attending our 3rd annual Chilifest on February 1st! I am sure the heat level will be turned all the way up to 11!! Thank you to Sheryl Maciel for spearheading this fundraiser once again. Proceeds from this go to help our general fund which goes to a variety of lodge charities such as veterans, scholarships, and community efforts, and also to Tommy's Place, a very worthy cause. So please join us, help us select a winner and rock out to some live music by the band On The Rocks!

Another great way to spend some time this winter is by checking out the solo art show by our very own Lodge Artist Charlie Wright at the Falmouth Art Center. Charlie's artwork is all around the lodge, and he designed our new logo, so I am sure the art on display will be phenomenal!

I want to thank Rick Smith for all his work getting Bingo up and running since 2022. Rick recently decided to step away, and he will certainly be missed. The Bingo Committee is in need of some help to fill the large hole left behind by Rick, so if you or someone you know are interested in volunteering, please let me or the Bingo Committee Chairman Tom Mountford know. The biggest area of need are some able bodied people to help set up the room before 2pm on Mondays. So if any of our newer younger members are looking to get involved, this is the perfect place to start!

I want to remind members that profanity at the bar should be kept to a minimum, if not zero. Let's have some respect for one another, and remember that the bartenders control the bar so if they ask you to stop the colorful language, please do so.

On February 25th, Rory Maguire will be doing a BBQ dinner night, consisting of ribs, brisket, cornbread, cheese potatoes and cole slaw. More details will follow on flyers in the grill room, but I know I am really looking forward to this one!

As we reported at the first meeting in January, our lodge manager has resigned. The Club Managing Body will be approving a new job description and requirements at our next meeting and then we will be taking applications for a new bar manager and conducting interviews soon after. So if you or someone you know are interested in the position, please turn in an application.

Finally my Elk of the Month is Chuck Gonsalves. Chuck runs a free karaoke night every other Friday and also is a staple in the kitchen on Monday nights during Bingo. Make sure to give Chuck a high five and some thanks when you see him!

Fraternally Yours,

Kirk Marks
ER, PER



FALMOUTH LODGE OF ELKS
 140 Palmer Avenue
 Falmouth, MA 02540

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Sickness and Distress

If anyone knows of a Member who is in sickness or distress or a family member requesting a Lodge of Sorrow please contact the Lodge.

Falmouth Lodge of Elks #2380
Officers 2025-2026
Lodge Phone 508-548-2380
Lodge Email: bpoefalmouth2380@gmail.com

Exalted Ruler..... Kirk Marks, PER
Esteemed Leading Knight Jason Mitchell
Esteemed Loyal Knight John Womboldt
Esteemed Lecturing Knight..... Amanda Summerton
Secretary..... David Branga
Treasurer..... Dana C. Nielsen
Esquire..... Michael Lynch, PER
Inner Guard Sisoumee Yazzie
Tiler Gilbert Silva
Chaplain..... TBD
Justice of Subordinate Forum Kevin Callahan, Esq.

Ann Marie Giampietro (5yr)
 Michael Chovanec (4yr)
 Sheryl Barrett Maciel (3yr)
 Amanda Hamill (2yr)
 Kevin Thayer (1yr)

Board of Directors Chair:
 Michael Chovanec
Club Managing Body Chair:
 Amanda Summerton

Officer of the Year: John Womboldt
Elk of the Year: Earl "Thumper" Berry, Sr.
Citizen of the Year: Steve Xiarhos
Elk of the Month: Chuck Gonsalves

Lodge Hall Available

Do you have an anniversary, birthday or family reunion to celebrate? Wedding or Reception? Great rates, full bar, huge dance floor! The Lodge Hall is available by reservation.

For details and rental fees, email the lodge at
Manager2380@gmail.com

DUES PAYMENT COUPON

From _____

Member# _____

Email Address _____

Enclosed is a check for **118.00** for my 2026-2027 Lodge Dues. **This will pay me in full until April 1, 2027**
 Please check one below:

- Mail my new card to me.
- I'll pick my card up at the Lodge
- Please send **ALL** correspondence via email

Please make checks payable to: **The Falmouth Elks**
 and mail your check and this coupon to:
Falmouth Elks, 140 Palmer Ave., Falmouth, MA 02540

Regular Dues: \$118.00 Life Member Dues: \$60.00

I am also enclosing a separate \$25.00 check
For the Elks National Foundation!