



Lake Hopatcong Elks  
Lodge #782

Meetings  
1st and 3rd Tuesday  
(973) 398-9835



JANUARY 2025

CHARITY



JUSTICE



BROTHERLY LOVE



FIDELITY



# Exalted Ruler's Message

A Fraternal Organization  
Join Elkdom's Action Team  
Make Your Friend a Member

2024

Your next best moment is just waiting for you to discover it.

2025



The end of 2024 has arrived but not the end of the Fraternal year that ends March 31st. Coming off one of the busiest months of charitable work the Lodge Officers, Committee Chairman and Members should be proud of the accomplishments. From the Beautiful Memorial Service to start the month, thank you **Linda**, followed by the visit from our District Deputy. The Ritual Team performed for the Right to represent the District in the State Ritual Contest in February.

If you walked into the lodge during the second week of December, you would have seen tables full of food baskets for those in need in the community. Also, you would have seen so many Christmas presents you would have thought Santa dropped his bag. A huge thank you to **Linda Gathen** for arranging the all the families and making the process easy. Every year this would not be possible without the big hearts of our members who open their wallets even when times are hard to make sure those less fortunate have something to give their families.

If that wasn't enough our Special Children Committee held its annual Christmas party for our special children. Then the following Sunday the Lodges held its Breakfast with Santa which was another huge event. Thank you to all those members who helped set up, cook, serve, and clean up after the events. Also thank you to the House and Bar Committees for their continued hard work to make everyone who enters our Lodge feel welcome.

A lot of work going on in the background as well! The back parking lot is coming along nicely thank you, **Walt** and the maintenance Committee.

Final December ended with a sold-out New Years Eve celebration everyone had a great time ringing in the new year! Speaking of the new year, now is not the time to rest because before you know it the 15<sup>th</sup> Leap in the Lake will be upon us. So, get out the message, put your teams together and be a part of this great event on March 1<sup>st</sup> and make this year one to remember.

Fraternally,  
Peter Appaluccio  
Exalted Ruler

## 2024-2025 LODGE OFFICERS



<b>Exalted Ruler</b>	<b>Peter Appaluccio, PDD</b> 973-726-7818
<b>Est. Leading Knight</b>	<b>Patricia Zdichocki</b> 973-723-6462
<b>Est. Loyal Knight</b>	<b>Walter Wurster</b> 973-420-8165
<b>Est. Lecturing Knight</b>	<b>Samantha Martin, PER</b> 201-214-6925
<b>Esquire</b>	<b>Matthew Winnans, PVP</b> 201-572-8297
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Kimberly Tweed</b> 862-242-0116
<b>Inner Guard</b>	<b>Jason Howard</b> 973-294-6837
<b>Tiler</b>	<b>Lisa Rovito, DD</b> 201-978-7218
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Linda Gathen, PDD</b> 973-398-2097
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Barbara Tokar, PER</b> 201-207-7545
<b>Lodge Photographer</b>	<b>Linda Kline</b> 973-476-1131
<b>1 Year Trustee</b>	<b>Sean MacMillan</b>
<b>2 Year Trustee</b>	<b>Tom Brown, PDD</b>
<b>3 Year Trustee</b>	<b>Wayne McDonell, VP</b>
<b>4 Year Trustee</b>	<b>Richard Gathen, PSP</b>
<b>5 Year Trustee</b>	<b>Richard Ter Linden</b>

### HOUSE COMMITTEE

*Debi Werner, Chairperson*  
 Vicki Angle  
 Jen Brown  
 Sue Bruyere  
 Dawn Crocetta  
 Derya Harquil  
 Diane LaPreta  
 Nancy Loizou  
 Dawn Malanka  
 Annette McInerney  
 Debbie Sobierajski  
 Kim Tweed  
 Kathy Venier

### PLANNING A FUNCTION?

OUR HALL IS AVAILABLE  
 TO RENT FOR ANY FUNCTION  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION  
 CALL DEBI AT 973-668-9302

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

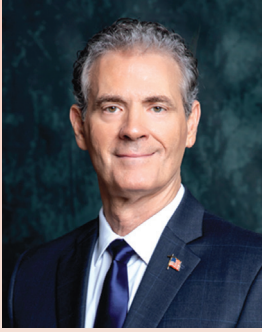
<b>Accident &amp; Prevention</b>	<b>Rick Ter Linden</b> 972-271-1804
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Patsy Schmidt</b> 973-975-2325
<b>Americanism</b>	<b>Patricia Carley</b> 973-534-0168
<b>Antlers</b>	<b>Samantha Martin, PER</b> 201-214-6925
<b>Auditing &amp; Accounting</b>	<b>Kathleen Caffrey, PDD</b> 973-534-8283
<b>Bar Chair</b>	<b>Nancy Loizou</b> 973-632-1129
<b>Community Activities</b>	<b>Patty Zdichocki</b> 201-723-6462
<b>Convention</b>	<b>Linda Gathen, PPD</b> 973-398-2097
<b>Drug Awareness</b>	<b>Samantha Martin, PER</b> 201-214-6925
<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>Dee Krowl</b> 973-390-0638
<b>Elks National Foundation</b>	<b>Pete Appaluccio, PDD</b> 973-736-7818
<b>Flag Day</b>	<b>Rick Gathen, PSP</b> 973-398-2097
<b>Fraternal Committee</b>	<b>Linda Gathen, PDD</b> 973-398-2097
<b>Government Relations</b>	<b>Barbara Tokar, PER</b> 201-207-7545
<b>Grounds Maintenance</b>	<b>Trustees</b>
<b>Hall Rental</b>	<b>Debi Werner</b> 973-668-9302
<b>Hoop Shoot</b>	<b>Tom Brown, PDD</b> 973-919-5395
<b>Indoctrination</b>	<b>Rick Gathen, PSP</b> 973-398-2097
<b>Investigation</b>	<b>Cory Schmidt</b> 973-440-7393
<b>In-House Caterer</b>	<b>Debi Werner</b> 973-668-9302
<b>Lapsation</b>	<b>Barbara Tokar, PER</b> 201-207-7545
<b>Lodge Activities</b>	<b>Patsy Schmidt</b> 973-975-2325
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Barbara Tokar, PER</b> 201-2077545
<b>Maintenance Committee</b> (Reports to the Trustees)	<b>Walter Wurster</b> 973-420-8165
<b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>Linda Gathen, PDD</b> 973-398-2097
<b>Motorcycle</b>	<b>Walter Wurster</b> 973-420-8165
<b>Parades</b>	<b>Linda Gathen, PDD</b> 973-398-2097
<b>PER Association</b>	<b>Rick Gathen, PSP</b> 862-324-2412
<b>Pole Barn</b>	<b>Red Curry</b>
<b>Public Relations</b>	<b>Jennifer Appaluccio, PER</b> 973-222-4547
<b>Softball/Cornhole Tournament:</b>	<b>Ricky Gathen</b>

## RELIEF COMMITTEE

<b>Pete Appaluccio, Exalted Ruler</b>	<b>973-726-7818</b>
<b>Patty Zdichocki, Leading Knight</b>	<b>201-723-6462</b>
<b>Walter Wurster, Loyal Knight</b>	<b>973-420-8165</b>
<b>Samantha Martin, PER, Lecturing Knight</b>	<b>201-214-6925</b>
<b>Linda Gathen, PDD, Treasurer</b>	<b>973-398-2097</b>
<b>Barbara Tokar, PER</b>	<b>201-207-7545</b>
<b>Ritual</b>	<b>Heidi McDonnell, PDD</b> 973-545-1557
<b>Scholarship</b>	<b>Jennifer Appaluccio, PER</b> 973-222-4547
<b>Sickness &amp; Distress</b>	<b>Lauren Greed</b> 973-668-6733
<b>Soccer Shoot</b>	<b>Tom Brown, PDD</b> 973-919-5395
<b>Special Children</b>	<b>Heidi McDonnell, PDD</b> 973-545-1557 <b>Wayne McDonnell, VPE</b> 973-841-9845
<b>Veterans</b>	<b>Ed Parrillo</b> 973-398-6677
<b>Army of Hope</b>	<b>Matthew Winnans, PVP</b> 201-572-8297
<b>Youth Activities</b>	<b>Tom Brown, PDD</b> 973-919-5395

01	Rose Ann Boyle
01	David Ferrara
01	William G Hirschfeld
01	John McCarthy
01	Glen Roberts
02	James Buckley
02	Gary Moore
02	Mark Vandling
02	Madelyn Walrod
03	Cynthia Ferrigno
03	Josephine D La France
05	Michael A Champa
06	Brian Falzarano
06	John Matthes
07	Karen Ann Alonge
07	William R Byles
07	Henry J Mason Sr
07	Matthew Winnans
08	Joseph Giambattista
08	Anthony Massari
08	Kenneth Matzek
08	James Perrette
08	Robert Rossi
08	Michael W Thomas
08	Linda S Villamarin
09	Robert Hantak
09	Karl Petr
09	Raymond Ricciardi
09	Lori Strom
10	Kenneth M Sterzer
11	Gail Bennett
11	Caroline Glucksman
11	Timothy McQuaid
12	Thomas Brown Sr
12	Paul Macchia
13	Coley Campbell
14	Veronica A Blewitt-Bellack
14	Shawn Davis
14	John Wilkinson
15	George F Batelli
15	Charles B Bell
15	Walter Bell
15	Paul T Donnarumma
16	Gregory S Dash
16	Joseph T Doyle Jr
16	Virginia Slater
17	Jacqueline C Buckley
17	Karen Porter
18	William R Heiser
18	Eric Keiper
18	Kimberly Tweed
20	Jennifer Appaluccio
20	John J Stier
21	Rockie Fuller
21	Sandra A Harding
21	Deborah Werner
22	Brian M DeVries
22	Michael J Tresca
23	Theresa Lopatosky
23	Miroslav Shikhan
24	Deborah Ambrose
24	William O'Brien
26	Jeanette A Czipo
27	Declan Beere
27	Sharon Kepler
27	James McDevitt
27	Carlos A Rojas
27	Carole Terantino
28	James S Miller
28	Michaela Winnans
29	Edward Barton
29	Bernard Curry
29	Jeremy S Heiskanen
30	James Glicos
31	Emma G Kline
31	Annette Kouyoumjian
31	Thomas D Sellaro

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MEMBERS OF JANUARY



## ***“Elks Give from the Heart”***

**Douglas A. Schiefer**

GRAND EXALTED RULER

**2024-2025**

***“Elkdom’s Heart for America”***

**New year begins, but Elks year ends soon**



Happy 2025 to all our Elks family! Julia and I want to wish you and your families a healthy and happy new year.

January is the beginning of the last quarter of the Lodge year. Be sure to have your membership retention and arrears program ready to work on having a +1 membership gain for 2025! Have your committee reach out to delinquent Members. This personal contact could very well bring these Members back into our folds.

While we have so many Members who are active and going beyond the call of duty, we unfortunately have those who are delinquent in membership. We need to look over the lapsation list. Our delinquent Members had a reason for joining and they are worth keeping as active Members. Find out what you can do to improve this. Think of the missed opportunities that these delinquent Members could have had in making a legacy of service.

As we begin 2025, Lodges need to be focusing on several aspects: Our Members and membership, our Lodges and improvements, and our recognition to those who have given beyond the typical role of service.

There is no better way to recognize these people who have gone beyond the call of duty in their service to Elkdom than to award them with “Elk of the Year,” “Officer of the Year,” and “Citizen of the Year.” The awards form can be accessed in CLMS2Web. They need to be submitted prior to March 31 so that the certificates can be printed and sent back to the Lodges for Officer installations. As an Exalted Ruler, you have an opportunity to recognize those Members who are doing everything without even being asked.

Speaking of legacy, the Legacy Award scholarship is available until February 3, 2025. It provides \$4,000 scholarships to the children and grandchildren of Elks Members. Use the membership of Elkdom to pay it forward to help your children and grandchildren.

The end of year will be here before you know it. With the FRS system, your Lodge just needs to ensure all entries are current. The nice thing about the FRS system is your Lodge no longer needs to have the annual audit completed. However, you still must submit your 990 and 990T for each corporation in your Lodge. Have them completed by a qualified individual (e.g., CPA) and filed with the IRS and uploaded on Elks.org.

Elkdom’s Heart for America means looking for ways to recognize the value of our Members, membership, and the value of looking forward to the future. Keep up the good work you are doing in your Lodge and community. I want you to know how much I appreciate all that you are doing for Elkdom. God bless you and God bless America.

***“Elks Care - Elks Share.”***

## **WELCOME WEDNESDAY**

**JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> - YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

**Wing Night - Turkey Soup**

**JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> - VETERANS**

**Italian Hot Dogs - Split Pea Soup**

**JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> - HOUSE COMMITTEE**

**Grilled Chicken, Roasted Peppers,  
Mozzarella Cheese With Balsamic Glaze  
Shrimp Corn Chowder**

**JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup> - MOTOCYCLE**

**LIVE MUSIC BY JOE BIGLIN**

**Cheesesteaks - Lasagna Soup**



**THE LAKE HOPATCONG ELKS DONATED \$5,000 TO OUR AREA FOOD BANKS, HELPING ENSURE NO ONE GOES HUNGRY IN OUR COMMUNITY.**



## SICKNESS & DISTRESS



Sending condolences to our member **Rockie Fuller**. We are so sorry for the loss of your mother. Thoughts and prayers to our members who are ill or home recovering from recent sickness, injury, surgery or procedures: **Red & Marge, Scott Curry and Linda Kline**. We hope you feel better and looking forward to seeing you all back at the lodge very soon.

Extending well wishes for a happy and healthy New Year to all our members. If you know of any member in need of our thoughts and prayers please contact me:

Lauren Greed, *Chairperson*  
(973)668-6733  
LGreed83@gmail.com

## HOUSE COMMITTEE

*Happy New Year 2025  
May It Be The Best year Yet!!*

We have a quite January but we start out with the Veterans Committee's Annual Roast Beef Dinner which is SOLD OUT!!

Look out ... we are gearing up for our annual "Leap in the Lake" Fundraiser!! First I would like to thank our hard working members and a big thank you to all our local businesses who makes this event the great success it is!!

Tickets are one sale now for the advanced ticket price of \$25.00 for Smokin' Schmidty's Annual Pig Roast being held February 22nd from 2pm-6pm! Schmidty will be onsite in the wee hours of the morning will be smokin' a 100+ lb pig for that day! There will be live music, lots great food and so much more!! **ALL** proceeds go to Leap in the Lake fundraising total. Thank you Cory and Patsy Schmidt for all you guys do!

Our wELkome Wednesdays have returned after a much needed holiday break for our hard working committees.

Our Friday Night Dinner for January 31st is in honor of our much missed and absent member, **Kim Douglas!!**

Thank you as always to the House Committee for the tremendous help you provided throughout this past year. Teamwork always makes it happen!

Debi Werner  
*House Committee Chairperson*

## Friday Night Grill Menu

<b>Hamburger.....\$5.00</b>	<b>Hot Dog .....\$3.00</b>
<b>With Fries.....\$8.00</b>	<b>With Fries.....\$6.00</b>
<b>With Onion Rings.....\$9.00</b>	<b>With Onion Rings.....\$7.00</b>
<b>Cheeseburger.....\$6.00</b>	<b>Chicken Fingers (5 Pieces) ....\$7.00</b>
<b>With Fries.....\$9.00</b>	<b>Basket of Fries.....\$5.00</b>
<b>With Onion Rings.....\$10.00</b>	<b>Basket of Onion Rings .....\$6.00</b>



## FRIDAY NIGHT DINNERS

**JANUARY 3, 2025**  
**STUFFED SHELLS WITH MEAT SAUCE**

**JANUARY 10, 2025**  
**CHICKEN MARSALA**

**JANUARY 17, 2025**  
**CHEF SURPRISE!**

**JANUARY 24, 2025**  
**PORK MILANESE**

**JANUARY 31, 2025**  
**MISSISSIPPI POT ROAST**

**LOOKING FOR NEW COOKS FOR 2025!!**  
**PLEASE CALL DEBI WERNER @ 973-668-9302**



**MEDIA**

**ALERT**

*A Fraternal Organization*  
2750 N. Lakeview Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614-1889

Contact: Rick Gathen  
Phone: (862) 324-2412

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ELKS LOVE A PARADE ELKS TAKE CENTER STAGE AT THE 2025 TOURNAMENT OF ROSES PARADE

Chicago, IL – The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) is gearing up for an unforgettable appearance in the 2025 Tournament of Roses Parade on January 1, 2025, in Pasadena, California. In perfect harmony with the parade's theme, "Best Day Ever!", the Elks will showcase a dazzling float that celebrates their ongoing commitment to youth development, education, and leadership.

This one-of-a-kind float honors the Elks' nationwide Youth Camps, which offer outdoor education, recreation, and leadership opportunities to young people across the country. It symbolizes the Elks' commitment to shaping the next generation of leaders and community-minded citizens. The float's creation is a testament to the dedication of Elks members and volunteers from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and the Panama Canal Zone, who worked together to bring this vision to life. As the float makes its way down the parade route, it will serve as a vibrant reminder of the Elks' profound impact on youth and communities nationwide.

Beyond parades, the Elks' contributions continue to shape communities and lives. With nearly 1,800 lodges and close to 800,000 members nationwide, the Elks made a monumental \$550 million in charitable donations last year alone. From supporting veterans and youth programs to bolstering local community initiatives, the Elks are a powerful force for good.

"We are beyond excited to be part of this historic event and share the spirit of service with millions of viewers," said Rick Gathen, Grand Lodge Membership & Marketing Director. "Join us as we celebrate the 'Best Day Ever!' with a float that exemplifies the Elks' dedication to making a difference in the lives of youth across the country."

Interested in becoming a part of this incredible organization? Elks membership is open to American citizens aged 21 and older who believe in God. To learn more about joining or getting involved with the Elks' service initiatives, visit [Join.Elks.Org](http://Join.Elks.Org).

**For media inquiries, please contact:**  
Patrick Akes  
Area 7 Representative  
Corona, CA 92882-3201  
Cell: (951) 750-8518 Email: [patrickakes@gmail.com](mailto:patrickakes@gmail.com)

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks • Grand Lodge

**Elks Care – Elks Share**



## VETERANS COMMITTEE

wELKome to the new year 2025! Let's hope the border economy, gas costs and other things that we are going through will stabilize. We have a new president who says he will address all these issues we are facing.

The Birchwood Manor Roast Beef Dinner for our Veterans was a huge success!! Countless thank yous for all the groups and individuals who donated items for our Veterans Committee Giveaway. We had 6 & 8 6 foot tables with items for the Veterans to choose from of toiletries, socks, t-shirts, underwear, sweatsuits, shoes, knitted hats, scarfs, lap covers, and other great homemade items from the cottage knitters Many thanks and appreciation to our veterans committee for setting the tables, serving salad, rolls and dinner to nearly 100 veterans!! This year we were very happy to have a full table of female veterans in attendance! It was great afterwards tp have a chance to just sit with the vets talking!!

Let's not forget our roast beef dinner on January 4th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Our menu consists of roast beef, mashed potatoes, vegetables, plenty of brown gravy, a good salad, bread and butter. Homemade desserts by both Karen and Donna. You don't want to miss this! We will also have music by DJ AI. We hope to see our brothers and sisters attending this Saturday event.

Let's pray for our cancer diagnosed friends and family  
Happy & Healthy New Year To All!

Ed Parrillo, Committee Chairperson



## Happy New Year from all of us on the Youth Activities Committee!!

Please note that the State Soccer shoot is next, Saturday, January 11th at Manasquan. The District Hoop Shoot is being held on January 18th at the Hopatcong High School at 10:00AM. Our next meeting is TBD. Stay tuned!



## SPECIAL CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

Happy New Year Members,

The holidays are behind us but to recap the fun we had with our special families - the district committee kicked things off with the annual Christmas party held at Parsippany lodge. We had a great turnout and every special child left with a goody bag, a gift from Santa and a smile on their face. Thank you to district chair **Linda Gathen** and the entire **Northwest District Committee** for a great event.

The next event we held was our annual breakfast with Santa. We had an incredible turnout of our families and Elk volunteers. Thank you to Santa, Frosty, and our Elf for bringing festive cheer to the kids and their families. Thank you to all those who cooked, served, set up, and cleaned up for the event. Many hands lightened the load.

As we kick off the new year we are once again holding two virtual events for the kids. The first was the 2nd annual New year gift card giveaway and our 2nd annual new year trivia contest. It's a great time and the families really enjoy this!

We have already begun planning our annual group art project for the Leap in the Lake. This years work of art will be a special one in honor of our milestone 15th annual Leap in the Lake. More to come!

Until then have a great big beautiful tomorrow!

Wayne & Heidi McDonnell  
SCC Lodge Co-Chairs





# New Year, New Opportunities to Make an Impact with the Lake Hopatcong Elks!

2025 is here—a fresh start and the perfect time to invest in something truly meaningful: your connection to the Lake Hopatcong Elks and our community. This year, let's come together to make a difference, grow personally, and create memories that will last a lifetime. Here's how you can make it happen:

**Volunteer and Make a Difference:** Step up and join one of our Lodge committees—whether it's Special Children, Veterans, or Youth. Your time and talents directly impact lives, and every act of service brings joy and fulfillment to your heart.

**Sponsor and Share the Gift of Belonging:** Invite a friend, family member, or co-worker to experience the pride and purpose of being part of the Lake Hopatcong Elks. Helping someone join opens the door to lifelong friendships and shared accomplishments.

**Lead and Shape the Future:** Take on a leadership role as a Lodge Officer. Be the guiding force behind our events, programs, and impact. Leadership is not just about giving; it's about growing and leaving a legacy.

**Stay Connected and Engaged:** Attend our Lodge meetings to stay in the loop, share your voice, and feel the pulse of our incredible organization. Together, we shape the path forward.

**Lift Our Community:** Be part of something bigger than yourself by supporting our charitable programs. Whether it's helping children with special needs, honoring veterans, or empowering youth, your involvement changes lives. And it feels incredible.

**Experience Warmth and Joy:** Every time you brighten someone's day, you'll feel the warmth of doing good radiating in your own life. Being active with the Lake Hopatcong Elks isn't just fulfilling—it's soul-lifting.

**Build Connections:** Meet new friends and strengthen bonds with fellow members. The Lodge isn't just a place; it's a family.

**Contribute to the Future:** Support the Elks National Foundation with a \$10 donation—it's a small gesture that fuels life-changing programs.

**Celebrate Together:** Attend more Lodge events, enjoy our vibrant community, and indulge in delicious food and beverages. Each moment spent at the Lodge adds to the memories you'll treasure.

Let's make 2025 a year of growth, impact, and unforgettable experiences with the Lake Hopatcong Elks.  
Together, we can make a difference—not just for others but for ourselves.



## PRE-LEAP IN THE LAKE 2025 FUNDRAISER



**BURGERS • HOT DOGS**  
**BBQ CHICKEN • BAKED BEANS**  
**PASTA SALAD • MAC-N-CHEESE**

**\$25.00 ADVANCE • \$30.00 DAY OF EVENT**

**LIVE MUSIC • 50/50**

**BEER • WINE • SODA PACKAGE AVAILABLE**

~ CASH BAR ALSO AVAILABLE ~



SATURDAY  
**FEBRUARY 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
→ 2PM-6PM  
2025

**TICKETS ARE  
AVAILABLE NOW!**

PLEASE SEE ANY BARTENDER  
FOR TICKETS

Cory Schmidt at 973-440-7393  
smokinschmidty@yahoo.com

(ALL PROCEEDS TOWARDS LAKE HOPATCONG  
ELKS LEAP IN THE LAKE GRAND TOTAL)



**LAKE HOPATCONG ELKS LODGE #782 • 201 HOWARD BOULEVARD MOUNT ARLINGTON, NJ 07856**





Lake Hopatcong Elks #782  
**Memorial Service**  
 December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

*Elks are Never Forgotten  
 - Never Forsaken*



*Remembering our departed Members*

- This service is dedicated to the memory of our departed Members:*
- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>David Cruickshank, Jr</i> | <i>William Orr</i>          |
| <i>Kimberly Ann Douglas</i>  | <i>Joseph Pennino, PhD*</i> |
| <i>Diane Gleason</i>         | <i>Ray Pruden</i>           |
| <i>John Holinko*</i>         | <i>William Ryan</i>         |
| <i>Edward Kelly</i>          | <i>Rev. Carter Smith</i>    |
| <i>Walter Michalski*</i>     | <i>Audrey Thompson</i>      |
| <i>George P. O'Brien</i>     | <i>Arthur Wilson</i>        |
| <i>John J. O'Brien</i>       |                             |
- \* denotes Life Member



*"Our Brothers & Sisters have journeyed away from us. Whatever may have been their accomplishments, we are their treasures.*

*We will cherish their good deeds, forget their faults, and inscribe their name upon the tablets of love and memory.*

*As they were true to us, let us be true to them."*





## 2024 HOLIDAY APPEAL - A GREAT SUCCESS!



Once again, the spirit of volunteerism and compassion shined brightly this Christmas at Lake Hopatcong Elks #782, with so many of our lodge members finding it in their hearts to adopt a total of 197 children from 91 area financially needy families and buying them gifts to put under the tree. On behalf of these children and families whose lives you have made a difference, I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. This incredible feat would not be possible without the support from our members. Imagine the faces on those children, waking up Christmas morning, to find so many more gifts under their tree than they thought was possible. To some children, and even to some parents, our benevolence was looked upon as a miracle, as these parents struggled wondering where they could possibly find the money to give their children a Christmas every child deserves. We all should feel a sense of pride and joy knowing we made a difference in these families' lives. Thank you again for making this possible.

A special thanks to **Nancy Loizou** for all her help in organizing, wrapping and checking in all the gifts to make sure none were missed. Thank you also to all the members who helped assemble the food baskets.



Thank you ALL for choosing  
to make a difference!

Linda Gathen, PDD  
Holiday Appeal Chairperson





**15<sup>th</sup> Annual**



# **LEAP IN THE LAKE**

**For Our Special Kids**

Sponsored by Lake Hopatcong Elks #782

**SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025**

Hopatcong State Park - 1:00 pm

Thaw out at our

**Post Leap Party**

at Lake Hopatcong Elks #782

2 pm to 5 pm

Food, Raffles, Giveaways,

Music & More!

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION**

[www.lakehopatcongelks.com](http://www.lakehopatcongelks.com)

All plungers will receive a complimentary ticket to the Post Leap Party,  
a "Leap in the Lake" sweatshirt and event souvenir items.

Additional Post Leap Party tickets are available for \$20 per person

All proceeds to benefit Special Children, Youth Programs & Building Renovation

## RESERVE YOUR ROOM NOW FOR WILDWOOD 2025

Join us for the NJ State Elks Convention in Wildwood, June 6–8, 2025!

**Your Package Includes:**

- **2-night hotel stay:** Friday check-in, Sunday check-out
  - **Hospitality Room:** Beer, wine, soda, liquor, and more
  - **Meals:** Breakfast (Saturday & Sunday), Lunch (Saturday), Dinner (Friday) & Pig Roast (Saturday)
- Package Price:** \$460 (reflecting increased hotel and food costs)  
**Deposit:** \$160 required to secure your reservation

**The Parade is The Heart of the Weekend.** The primary purpose of this cherished annual tradition is to represent our Lodge with pride in the NJ Elks Parade. Judging is based on Marcher participation, Float and musical unit quality and key elements like the Honor Guard and banner carriers.

To uphold our mission and strengthen our presence, **we are focused on maximizing parade participation and reducing those who choose not to participate in the parade.** Non-marchers increase food and beverage costs, which are subsidized through Lodge fundraising, and detract from our primary purpose: **proudly participating in the parade.**

**NEW Benefits for Members who participate in the parade by marching or riding in a car:**

- **Priority room assignments** at The Royal Canadian (Non-marchers will be assigned higher-floor rooms or rooms at nearby motels, with exceptions for two reserved first-floor House Committee rooms).
- **Free Lodge shirt** to display your pride.
- **Reduced walking** with bus transportation to and from the parade route.
- **Custom vest sizing** provided with your deposit.

**Reserve Your Room Now!** Please list all people staying in your room and whether they are Members and if they are marching or riding in a car on the reservation form. Those members who are participating in the parade also should indicate their t-shirt size. Let's make 2025 an unforgettable year for our Lodge as we proudly represent ourselves in the NJ Elks Parade!

**Linda Gathen, PDD**

**Wildwood Convention Chair**



### WILDWOOD 2025 RESERVATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

List all people staying in your room over 15 yrs old:

_____	Member? Yes/No	Marching? Yes/No	Riding in Car? Yes/No	Size _____
_____	Member? Yes/No	Marching? Yes/No	Riding in Car? Yes/No	Size _____
_____	Member? Yes/No	Marching? Yes/No	Riding in Car? Yes/No	Size _____
_____	Member? Yes/No	Marching? Yes/No	Riding in Car? Yes/No	Size _____

Deposits of \$160 can be made by cash, check (payable to Lake Hopatcong Elks) or PayPal (LakeHopatcongElks.com)  
 If mailing a check, send to Lake Hopatcong Elks, 201 Howard Blvd, Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856





Hello January! The Antlers held our annual "Make and Take- Snack and Sip" event on Wednesday December 4th, at Nester's Greenhouse. We had our largest event yet with 85 attendees and everyone made such beautiful wreaths and arrangements! We are so happy this our annual event has grown into a tradition for so many... Special thanks to our member Jennifer Markesteyn and her Elves for all their hard work to make this event so amazing. They served for the Special Children's and Lodge's breakfast with Santa and load gifts in cars for holiday appeal. The Antlers are back serving wELKcome Wednesdays and of course our Friday Night dinners. They are really busy with school so we are grateful for any time they can dedicate to us and our good work. Please continue to thank them for their hard work and dedication.



Thank you for your continued donations to the clothing bins as it helps them make monthly donations to their favorite charities. So, keep our bins in mind as you clean out your closets for the new year.

Please help us spread the word as we continue to look for ways to grow our numbers. Membership in the Antlers is open to any individual who has passed their twelfth and not yet reached their twenty-first birthday, who is a citizen of the United States of America, of good character and who believes in the existence of God. As you can see it's a great time to be an ANTLER, we should all encourage the youth to join us. Applications and brochures can be found in the front lobby of the lodge. The Antlers do amazing things and have a great time serving our community as well as the lodge!

Lastly, The Antler's would like to wish everyone a HAPPY NEW YEAR and thank them for their generosity. With a new year we all open a new book, and its pages are blank. Remember we are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity, and its first chapter is New Year's Day. Choose your words wisely and remember pencils have erasers for a reason. Be kind and always put your best foot forward.

Remember Antlers today, Elks tomorrow!  
Fraternally, Samantha P. Martin PER, Antler Chairperson

While peer leadership is closed the Path to Peer leadership is still open and you can sign up using the link or you can scan QR <https://sites.google.com/view/njelkspeerleadership/applications>  
Path & PEER Leadership Conference Dates

- Pathway - February 6, 2025 (The deadline to register is January 10, 2025.)
- Peer Leadership - February 7-9, 2025





**LAKE HOPATCONG ELKS LODGE**

**No. 782**

201 Howard Boulevard  
Mount Arlington, NJ 07856



**Elks Care – Elks Share**