

Exalted Ruler's Message

The new year started off with a bang! We had our New Year's Eve party on the eve of the New Year. Then we had our New Year's Day Bloody Mary social. Such a great turn out for both events.

The Dueling Pianos was another success raising funds for our Major Project. Fun was had by all and the sing off between our Lodge's talented singers Geoff Mattraw and Lisa Green was a hit for the night.

Looking into February, there will be another big Major Project fundraising event, the Winter Bash. This should be another fun event and is expected to be just as successful. Please plan on joining in on this fun night.

We have our PER Night along with nomination of officers on Thursday, February 6th. The election of officers will take place on Thursday, February 20th. Looking ahead, we will have the Exalted Ruler's Volunteer Appreciation luncheon or dinner sometime in March. More on that to come later on. As always, thank you to all the volunteers that help with activities, events, dinners, etc.

Fraternally yours,

ER Michael Cummings

Leading Knight's Message

With the support of the membership, I hope to become the next Exalter Ruler of Watertown Elks Lodge # 496. Elks is Rich in tradition with our lodge recently celebrating our 125th year, which is quite an accomplishment. As we proceed into the future, we will face many challenges. We must try new ways to raise funds to help our lodge survive, and more importantly, to support the many organizations that need our help. We are looking at more events like the Dueling Pianos, which we just had and was a great time. Thanks to all that made it to the event and helped make our many other functions a success. We always need volunteers and encourage you to do so.

It is time to send in your dues and please do so on time. Remember, the Elks is a great organization and paying your dues goes a long way to helping our charitable causes.

Thank you and I look forward to serving you.

Respectfully yours, Phil Nuffer—Esteemed Leading Knight

Secretary's Message:

As of the writing of this message, we have 1,292 members with 93 that are still delinquent. Online dues payment is available by going to:

<https://search.revopay.com/elkslodge> (Helpful tip on that site: when entering your membership ID, add the two zeros before your four digit member ID).

Current dues are \$99 regular membership and \$69 Life membership. Delinquent members, please try to get current as soon as you can so that you won't have to pay more than twice the amount when due April 1st. If dues aren't paid by March 31st, you will be dropped. Can you imagine paying \$198 regular or \$138 Life Membership dues all at once? Your continued membership and support help our Lodge continue to do all the work that we for our community, something that should make you proud to be a member.

2025-2026 Membership Dues

Membership dues for 2025-2026 remains \$99 regular membership and \$69 Life membership.

Applications to be acted upon in February

New Membership application: **Brandon M. Bauman**—Watertown—Environmental Technician @ Converse Labs—proposed by Kathy Converse;

Reinstatement application: **Edward C. Lanning II**—Watertown—Refinish Technician @ Gerber Collision and Glass—proposed by Nieko Crescenzi; **Kenneth Mitchell**—Watertown—Assistant Manager @ Pizza Hut in Carthage—proposed by Nieko Crescenzi; **Life Membership Request: Bryan R Myers Sr.**—Altmar—32 years as paid-up member.

House Rules in the Lodge Bylaws

There is an insertion in the House Rules of the bylaws that is required by Grand Lodge Statutes Annotated Section 17.052, which is now 8a in the House Rules, "This Lodge prohibits the over service of alcohol as defined by local law as covered by Section 17.052 of Statutes Annotated." There are also some minor changes as to the misspellings or typos. They are posted on the bulletin board in the Lodge. Please review them as they will be voted on and hopefully adopted by the members before it is sent back to the Grand Lodge for approval.

Elks National Foundation / Major Project

Please consider making contributions to the Elks National Foundation (ENF) and Major Project and help us meet our per capita goals. The per capita for ENF is \$5 per member and Major Project is \$8.00 per member. When our Lodge meets our per capita goals, it helps us to get grants in order to continue our service and charitable giving to the community. With ENF, please consider joining the Fidelity Club. Just sign up, consider automatic withdrawal of minimum \$5 per month and forget. It's so much easier to do and knowing you've made significant contributions to such a worthy cause.

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, February 6th is our Lodge Session and PER Night along with initiation AND nomination of Officers for 2025-2026 year. Thursday, February 20th is Election of Officers during our regular Lodge session.

PER Dennis J Brady, Lodge Secretary

Watertown Elks Lodge 496

728 Bradley Street

Watertown NY 13601

Phone: (315) 788-1270

Email: dj0057@me.com

Text only: (315) 486-0057

To book an event at the lodge, call:

Events Phone Number: (315) 586-5954 or

Lodge Phone Number: (315) 788-1270

Email: elks496@centralny.twcabc.com

All information for next month's bulletin must be submitted by the **23rd** of this month. Thank you for your cooperation. PER Dennis J Brady, Editor

BELL JAR REPORT

December 2024

Total Income:	\$10,150.34
Total Expenses:	\$94.92
Worthy Causes:	\$0.00
Net Income:	\$10,055.42

PIZZA SALE



Saturday, February 1st
Is the LAST day to order
Your pizza!!



Pick up your order on Saturday, February 8th between
4 and 7 PM at the Lodge!
The order form is available at the Lodge or from last
month's bulletin.



Valentine's Day
Dinner/Dance



Friday, February 14th
5:30—7:30 PM—Dinner

Prime Rib Dinner—\$25

Fish Dinner—\$20

All dinners include shrimp cocktail, salad, baked potato or macaroni and cheese, and cake for dessert.

Tickets will be sold until February 11th—presale only!

Open to members and sponsored guests.

Skipp Starr and the Renditions will take the stage at 8 PM
performing hits from the 50's and 60's.

Enter our "Date Night" basket raffle!

Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10.

Proceeds from the raffles are for Lodge improvements.

February Events

Friday, February 7th at 7:00 PM
Trivia Night

(Activity Committee Event)

Thursday, February 13th at 6:30 PM
Bingo at the Bar

(Activity Committee Event)

Sunday, February 23rd at Noon
Cornhole Tournament w/ Black River Baggers

Thursday, February 27th at 6:30 PM
Bingo at the Bar

(Activity Committee Event)

Saturday, March 1st at 2 PM
Sip & Paint with Lynette—\$50/person

Includes all supplies—limited to first 25 only

All Lodge activities are open to members and sponsored guests

MEMBERS ON THE SICK BOARD

We have a few members on the sick board. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers: Terry Scee Jr; Ron Netto Sr; Randy Yott; Paul Montondo Sr; Francis Devine; Jon Buote; Peter L Clough; Jay Baytos.

Lodge of Sorrow

"May light perpetual shine upon them, until the morning breaks and the shadows flee away".

VOLUNTEERISM

We have had a lot of volunteers for several events during the fall season. A big Thank You go out to all that helped. It's always fun to volunteer and new volunteers are always welcomed. Interested in volunteering? Just ask the bartenders or tell the Lodge Secretary you're interested. Like to cook? Like to clean? Like to help out with events? Let us know!

February Meetings...

February 6th—Lodge Session/PER Night/Initiation/Nomination of Officers

February 6th—Trustees 6:30 PM

February 10th—House Committee 6:30 PM

February 11th—Activity Committee 6:30 PM

February 19th—Veterans Committee 6:30 PM

February 20th—Lodge Session/Election of Officers 7:30 PM

February 26th—Board of Directors 6:30 PM

Upcoming Events To Keep an Eye Out For...

March—Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon or Dinner

March—Possible St. Patrick's Dinner

March—Installation of Officers

April—Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

May—Mother's Day Brunch

May—Boys and Girls Lacrosse Fun Day



American Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, February 19th

1—6 PM Banquet Room



Download My Elks App!!!

Watertown Elks # 496 is now available on My Elks App! Updated events, calendar, meeting dates & times, etc. Receive notifications, alerts, make dues payment, etc. So convenient! Download it now!

PER Night

Thursday, February 6th is the PER Night. That means the PER will be running the meeting and initiation of new members. All meetings are open to the members, so please try to attend. It is also the night of nomination of officers for the 2025-2026 year.

It is encouraged that members attend the initiation of new members from time to time to get a refresher on what Elksdom is all about. A refresher on the procedure and the four principles of the order Elks - Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity. And take in on the renewal of your obligation. It should be fun to watch the PER's to clean off their cobwebs and perform the ritual of initiating new members on that night.



District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler William H. Schaab

PO Box 153, 5427 Shady Ave, Lowville, NY 13367

(315) 376-7131, (315) 376-6031

bill@nce-schaab.com



February 2025

MSPE = Member Sponsored Private Event



Sunday 11:00am—7:00pm	Monday 2:00pm—9:00pm	Tuesday 2:00pm—9:00pm	Wednesday 2:00pm—9:00pm	Thursday 2:00pm—9:00pm	Friday 2:00pm—11:00pm	Saturday 11:00am—11:00pm
Steak Night Tuesday Steak & side, salad \$15.95	Wed. Burger Night: Burger with lettuce, tomato, cheese and onions w/ fries \$12.95 w/ bacon—\$1 extra BLT—\$7.95					1 Last day to order your Pizzas!!
2 Del Leween Funday Bowling League 1 PM	3 LCR Party 6:30 PM	4 Steak Night Tuesday 5:30-7:30 PM \$15.95 Queen of Hearts 7PM Orientation—7PM	5 Burger Night 5:30 PM—7:30 PM	6 Trustees 6:30 PM Lodge Session 7:30 PM PER Night / Initiation Nomination of Officers	7 Trivia Night 7:00 PM	8 Pick up your pizzas! 4-7 PM
9 Del Leween Funday Bowling League 1 PM	10 House Committee Mtg 6:30 PM	11 Steak Night Tuesday 5:30-7:30 PM \$15.95 Queen of Hearts 7PM Activity Committee 6:30PM	12 Burger Night 5:30 PM—7:30 PM	13 Bingo at the Bar 6:30 PM	14 Valentine's Day Dinner/Dance More info inside! 	15 MSPE—Banquet Rm
16 Del Leween Funday Bowling League 1 PM Happy 157th Birthday BPOE!!!	17 LCR Party 6:30 PM	18 Steak Night Tuesday 5:30-7:30 PM \$15.95 Queen of Hearts 7PM	19 Burger Night 5:30 PM—7:30 PM Veteran's 6:30 PM Red Cross Blood Drive 1 to 6 PM	20 Lodge Session 7:30 PM Election of Officers	21	22 Big Winter Bash!!
23 Del Leween Funday Bowling League 1 PM Cornhole Tournament Black River Baggers 12 noon—5 pm Deadline for Bulletin	24 Bulletin Folding	25 Steak Night Tuesday 5:30-7:30 PM \$15.95 Queen of Hearts 7PM	26 Burger Night 5:30 PM—7:30 PM Board of Directors 6:30 PM	27 Bingo at the Bar 6:30 PM	28	



Watertown

B.P.O.E. #496

www.elks496.org

LODGE HOURS

Monday	2:00PM—9:00PM
Tuesday-Wednesday	2:00PM—9:00PM
Thursday	2:00PM—9:00PM *
*Except on Meeting Nights	
Friday	2:00PM—11:00PM
Saturday	11:00AM—11:00PM
Sunday	11:00AM— 7:00PM
Home of PSP Francis Hart, PSP Nelson Navarra & PSP Timothy E. Kelly	



<- QR Code for Website



<<- QR Code for Facebook

QR codes you can scan with your phone or tablet. Check out our website and/or Facebook page to keep current with upcoming events and activities. When on our Facebook page, please click "Like" and share away!

February 2025

Officers 2024—2025

Exalted Ruler	Michael Cummings
Est. Leading Knight	Philip K Nuffer
Est. Loyal Knight	PER Edward C Massa
Est. Lecturing Knight	Anthony DeMiceli
Secretary	PER Dennis J Brady
Treasurer	Beth A Bennett
Esquire	Karen Miller
Tiler	Sheri Doroha
Chaplain	Linda A Lepper
Inner Guard	Margaret "Peg" Bootie

Trustees:

Linnie Clark	Presiding Justice: Matt Doheny
Mary Hughes-Hoiston—Chair	Mediator: Vic James
Jay Miller	House Committee: Anthony DeMiceli
PSVP Joan Carlo	Bar Manager: Geoff Matraw
PER Anne M Fleming	Lodge Steward: Barb Yerdon

Elks Care — *Elks* Share

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Watertown, NY 13601

WATERTOWN ELKS LODGE #496
728 Bradley Street
Watertown, New York 13601-6008

Our 'heart' is love, legacy, and growth

By Rick Gathen

Membership Marketing Manager

Along with Valentine's Day, a celebration of love and connection, February also marks a significant milestone for our Order. On February 16, we observe the birthday of the Elks—a testament to 157 years of generosity and unwavering dedication to our communities.

This month, we honor the Great Heart of Elkdom that has guided us through the years. The love we celebrate on Valentine's Day is mirrored in the Elks' commitment to caring for others.

Our legacy of service is only possible because of our Members. As we commemorate 157 years of Elkdom, let us remember that every new Member strengthens our foundation and extends our reach. Membership growth is vital to ensuring that the Elks continue to be a vibrant force for good in the years ahead. By inviting others to join our mission, we open the door to new opportunities, ideas, and ways to serve.

Let's celebrate love, legacy, and growth. Whether it's a heartfelt act of kindness, recruiting a new Member, or participating in a Lodge event, every effort contributes to the enduring heartbeat of Elkdom. Together, we can honor our proud history while building an even brighter future.

JOIN THE ENF FIDELITY CLUB!!

What is the ENF Fidelity Club? Fidelity Club is part of the Elks National Foundation (ENF). Since its inception, the ENF has contributed more than \$500 million toward Elks charitable projects nationwide. Visit elks.org and read more about the Elks National Foundation.

By joining the Fidelity Club, you can sign up for automatic monthly withdrawals of a minimum \$5 per month and forget about it. Your contributions will support the many programs that the ENF provides and help build stronger communities.

Once you join, and the longer you remain a club member, you will receive stickers for your membership card, pins, recognitions for your faithful membership, and more!

Our goal? 5% of our Lodge membership. **SIGN UP NOW!**

Helpful tip: You'd need to have [Elks.org](https://elks.org) login to be able to sign up.

Lodge Bulletin Volunteers

March 2025 Lodge Bulletin help is needed on Monday evening, February 24th starting at about 6 PM.

New York State Elks

76th Annual Bowling Tournament

The upcoming NYS Elks bowling tournament will be hosted by Watervliet-Colonie #1500 Lodge.

Dates of Tournament:

March 29th—March 3th

April 5th—April 6th

April 12th—April 13th

April 26th—April 27th

May 3rd—May 4th

Bowlers from the Del Leween Sunday Funday is set to bowl on April 5th—6th.

Host:

Watervliet-Colonie Lodge # 1500

501 4th Avenue

Watervliet, NY 12189

(315) 273-8016

Team Event

Green Island Lanes

4 Lafayette St

Green Island, NY 12183

(518) 273-2322

Doubles and Singles

Uncle Sam Lanes

600 Fulton St

Troy, NY 12180

(518) 271-7800

Reservation close 12/30/2024—Entries close 03/01/2025

New York State Elks Association

Annual Spring Convention

The annual spring conference will be held at Villa Roma (356 Villa Roma Road, Callicoon, NY 12723) on May 15th—18th, 2025. Cut-off date for the Spring Convention reservation is on April 4, 2025. There are three-night and four-night packaged rates. Thursday to Sunday (4 days/3 nights) Traditional Room (main building or non-connecting) \$787.78 per person single occupancy or \$540.29 per person double occupancy. One Bedroom Suite (two beds and Living Room) - \$824.18 per person Single Occupancy or \$562.89 per person Double Occupancy. Wednesday to Sunday (5 days / 4 nights) is also available (from \$696.38 per person to \$1,053.36 per person). Anyone interested in reservation form may contact the Lodge Secretary.

Major Project

The Dueling Pianos held on January 18th turned out to be a major success and fun was had by all!! Thanks to all who volunteered and those who attended.

Next up:

2nd Annual Winter Bash for Major Project

February 22nd, 2025!

Cocktails will start at 5 PM with Dancing with Ben Wisner's Full Circle to follow from 6 to 9 PM!

Only 200 tickets will be sold at \$10 per person.

First come, first serve! Tickets on sale NOW!

Fun, Food and Raffles!!

This will be our biggest Event of the Year!!

Don't miss out!!

All proceeds will go **Major Project**.

Thanks—Lisa Green

Volunteers Needed

We have opening for team of volunteers for our Tuesday Steak Nights. Interested in cooking and cleaning? Come and join us! Anyone interested, please contact our House Committee chair Anthony DeMiceli.

There are also several committees that need volunteers. Interested in helping with our monthly bulletin? Being on Activity committee? Americanism? Cook breakfast once a month? Lapsation? Soccer shoot? Youth Activity? Be our photographer? Let us know! Coming up in April under the direction of our new Exalted Ruler, he or she may need YOU! Fill out volunteer sign up sheet and give to the bartender to put in the secretary's mail.

Dictionary Project

The dictionary program for the 2024-2025 year is complete. I went to 21 schools and handed out 1110 dictionaries. I also handed out the Drug Awareness coloring books and bookmarks. I went into the schools and classrooms and met with the students to talk with them about the dictionaries. Their excitement when they received the dictionaries was wonderful to see. The students were intrigued with all the information at the back of the dictionary including the longest word in the English language (1909 letters long), the brief bios of all the presidents, the solar system, sign language and much more. When I handed out and talked about the Drug Awareness coloring books that contained pictures stressing not to do drugs, the students were excited that they were made by young people. I pointed out the web address, elkskidzone.org, some students expressed that they were anxious to go to the site and see more. Our Lodge has received several thank you notes from the students stating how much they are enjoying the dictionaries. It was a great experience for me.

- PSVP Joan E Carlo, Dictionary Program Chair

News For The Bulletin

Got any news or special events to share in the monthly bulletin? Birthdays, anniversaries, milestones? Send it to us and we'll put it in the bulletin if spaces are available!

I am also looking for people to be on a bulletin committee. It takes more than one person to create a good bulletin. This is becoming time consuming for me and I need all the help I can get.

Thanks,

PER Dennis J Brady, Bulletin Editor

February 2025 Birthday

1 David Danks	7 Thomas Graban II	11 Daniel T Boulton	18 Robert A Coppola	22 Scott Robert Donato	26 Joseph A Biondolillo III
1 Richard P Donoghue	7 Matthew Leland Hartle	11 Terry F Carpenter	18 James M Crescenzi	22 Joshua Henry	26 Edward C Massa
1 Marilyn L Hanson	7 Catherine S Marks	11 Brandon D Wilson	18 Kevin LaClair	22 Kathryn L Wilson	26 Jeffrey Narrow
3 Carol Lamon	7 Angela Roberts	12 Abraham D Doney	18 Ted S Smith	22 Randy Yott	26 Wayne Robbe
3 John Natali	7 Daniel Tontarski	12 Timothy M Glover	18 Richard Weston	23 John P Bruce	26 Gary A Williams
3 Lance Peterson Jr.	7 John G Woodward	12 Thomas E O'Riley	19 Bill Bowman	23 Jeffrey Morgan Cox	27 William Grill
3 Brenda Piche	8 Brad A Charlton	12 Michael E Side	19 Cathy Craig	23 Christopher S D'Ercole	27 Timothy Hodge
3 Rick Piche	8 Aaron Clemons	13 Edward E Brown	19 Eugene J Dolce	23 James Lafountain	27 Michelle Brotherton
3 Franklin Roberts	8 Kevin H Frasher	13 Bernice Clark	19 Robert M Kuba	23 Robert J Pfister	27 John T Nevin
3 Donna Vout	8 David R Gaffney	13 Connie J Timmerman	19 Dyllon Main	23 Ronald M Toper	27 Jack A Reff Jr.
3 Tammy Walsemann	8 Chris Misercola	15 Robert B Delles	19 James P O'Brien	24 James M Bonner Jr	27 James W Stowell
4 Lisa Eager	8 Joanne M VanCamp	15 Eric Hardy	19 Patti-Jo Shaffer	24 James S Ganter	28 Angela Alguire
4 Joe C Stevens	9 Tammy Decilles	15 Peter A Segouin	20 Dale E Call	24 Peter G Grieco	28 Gerald Bickel
5 Tim Reitzel	9 Lewis E Hatch	16 Gail C Butterfield	20 Geana Converse	24 Susan Hodge	28 Thomas J Cheney
5 Stephen J Rust	9 Scott M Pooler	16 David W Clement	21 Michael T Bice	24 Kimberly A LaForty	28 Gary Felice
5 Daniel Schleher	9 Peter T Radley	16 Peter J Fitzgerald	21 Thomas S Gates	24 Anthony M Ratigliano	28 Jane Hanley
6 Sandra J Bolton	9 David M Wolff	16 Travis Riley	21 James G Knight	25 Donald P Sholett	28 Brian F McAuliffe
6 Dale C Herman	10 Tracie R Side	16 Michael J Simser	21 Andrew M Makuch	25 Michael C Simmons	28 James R Pecori
7 William Decillis	11 Jeanina R Boone	17 Charmaine VanBrocklin	21 James M Thomas	25 Everett Wylie	29 Robin Kellar
7 Joseph F Foster					