

Exalted Ruler's Message

Dear brother and sister Elks. Well, we are well into November and before you know it, December will be upon us. November has been a busy month. State President and 125th Anniversary Dinner as well as Veterans Dinner. Thank you to all who supported the Lodge. The Harvest Dinner was a success

As we finish out November with Hoop Shoot and a Craft show, December will be busy. Memorial Sunday on December 1st, Tom and Jerry Sunday and the Children's Christmas Party. If you haven't made plans for New Years Eve, come celebrate it at the Lodge. Dave Scanlin Band will be playing. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Our steak dinners and burger nights have been going good. Thank you for supporting them. Thank you to all our volunteers that make these happen. Let's continue to work together in unity to make our Lodge successful. Everything and anything we do here is not about any individuals, but for the Lodge membership. Thank you to everyone that makes our Lodge prosper and succeed. As always, if anyone has any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Fraternally yours,
ER Michael Cummings

Secretary's Message:

As of the writing of this message, we have 1,290 members with 102 members 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 in a few months. If dues are NOT paid, you will be dropped on March 31st.

Your continued membership and support help our Lodge to continue to do all the work that we for our community, something that should make you proud to be a member of.

Applications to be acted upon in December

New Membership application: **Father Matt Conger**—Watertown—Holy Family Church—proposed by State President Tania DeFrank; Nichole Hineline—Watertown—Float Teller @ KeyBank—proposed by Brenda Piche; **Reinstatement** application: **Jeffrey Shannon**—Watertown—Self Employed @ KDM Kustoms—proposed by Anne Fleming.

Thank you to all those that have made monetary donations to our Holidays Appeal (Warm Feet, Warm Hands; Harvest Dinner for Senior Citizens; Children's Christmas Party). Your continued contributions helped our Lodge's Holiday Traditions to continue. We are so blessed by such giving Elks.

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 \$8.50 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.

Have a Merry Christmas and be safe on New Year's Eve!

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

December Events

Thursday, December 12th at 6:30 PM
Bingo at the Bar

(Activity Committee Event)

Friday, December 13th at 7:00 PM
Trivia Night

(Activity Committee Event)

Sunday, December 15th, 12 noon—5 PM
**Cornhole Tournament w/
Black River Baggers**

(Activity Committee Event)

All Lodge activities are open to members and sponsored guests

American Red Cross Blood Drive



Monday, December 23rd
2 to 6 PM
Banquet Room

All information for next month's bulletin must be submitted by the **24th** of every month. Thank you for your cooperation. PER Dennis J Brady, Editor



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY SUNDAY, DECEMBER—8TH

11:00 AM—2:00 PM

Open to members' children and grandchildren aged 12 and under. Please sign up at bar giving names, ages and gender of children by Wednesday, December 4th.

Please note: if you do not sign up by December 4th, there will be no gift for the child.



CHRISTMAS EVE

OPEN NOON—5:00 PM



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

BELL JAR REPORT

October 2024

Total Income:	\$9,832.00
Total Expenses:	\$7,207.18
Worthy Causes:	\$4,859.00
Net Income:	-\$2,234.18

**New Members Orientation Tuesday, December 3rd
at 7:00 PM**

**Free steak dinner for new members starting
at 5:30 PM**

Initiation on Thursday, December 5th at 7:30 PM

TOM & JERRY SUNDAY

DECEMBER 22nd

**OPEN TO MEMBERS ONLY
NOON TO 2:00 PM**

**Noon to 2:00—Tom & Jerrys,
Beer, Wine**

After 2:00 Members & Sponsored Guests



**New Year's Day
Open Noon to 6:00 PM**

**Bloody Mary—\$ 1.00
Happy Hour Prices All Day
Kitchen Closed**



SCHOLARSHIPS

The Elks continue to offer a number of scholarship opportunities. The following programs are still available for applications this year:

Elks Legacy Awards - College-bound high school seniors who are children or grandchildren of dues paying Elks are encouraged to apply for an Elks Legacy Award. They could receive \$1,000 per year for four years. Application deadline is February 3, 2025. Apply at elks.org/scholars/scholarships/Legacy.cfm.

New York State Elks Association Scholarships - These scholarships are available to children and stepchildren of NYS Elks Members in good standing. High school seniors and current college students are eligible. Applications must be filed with the Secretary of the sponsoring Lodge by December 13, 2024. For application information visit https://bit.ly/elks_scholarships.

New York State Association Vocational Scholarships- The NYS Elks Association is offering scholarships in the amount of \$500 to students who plan to attend a trade or vocational program to pursue a certificate or credential. Scholarships are available to graduating high school students or individuals who are within four years of earning their high school diploma or GED. Applicants must be a child or step-child of a NYS Elk in good standing, a resident of New York and a U.S. Citizen. Application deadline is December 13, 2024. For application information, visit https://bit.ly/elks_scholarships

For further information or questions contact Lodge #496 Scholarship Chair Peg Bootie at 315-788-0298 or abigail1893@verizon.net

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; Andrea DeMiceli; Scott Hirst.

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 in our busy November month!! Steak night dinners, burger nights, Veterans Dinner, DD/SVP visit, 125th Anniversary Dinner/ State President's Visit, Harvest Dinner, Hoop Shoot! Your volunteerism did not go unnoticed and we are forever grateful for all you have done!

December Meetings...

December 3rd—Activity Committee Meeting 6:30 PM

December 4th—PER Association 6:00 PM

December 5th —Lodge Session & Initiation 7:30 PM

December 5th—Trustees 6:30 PM

December 11th—Veteran's Committee 6:30 PM

December 16th—House Committee 6:30 PM

Upcoming Events To Keep an Eye Out For...



January 18th—Dueling Piano's (fund raising event)

February—Fun Winter Bash

March—Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon or Dinner

March—Installation of Officers



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!

New Year's Eve Party

Featuring **Dave Scanlin Band!**

8:30 PM—12:30 AM

Tickets \$35 pre Sale, \$40 at the Door.

Appetizers through the night, party favors,

Champagne Toast at Midnight

Bar to close at 5:30 and reopening at

7:00 pm for Ticket Holders Only

Come party with us and dance through the night!

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



December 2024

MSPE = Member Sponsored Private Event



Sunday 12:00pm—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
1 Memorial Service 2:00 PM Luncheon following	2 MSPE Lodge Rm 3:30 to 6:30 pm LCR Party 6:30 PM	3 Steak Night Tuesday 5:30-7:30 PM \$15.95 Queen of Hearts 7PM Activity Committee 6:30PM Orientation—7 PM	4 Burger Night 5:30 PM—7:30 PM PER Meeting 6 PM	5 Lodge Session/Initiation 7:30 PM Trustees 6:30 PM	6 	7
8 Children's Christmas Party 11 am to 2 pm MSPE 12—2 pm Lodge Rm	9 	10 Steak Night Tuesday 5:30-7:30 PM \$15.95 Queen of Hearts 7PM Activity Committee Meeting 6:30 PM	11 Burger Night 5:30 PM—7:30 PM Veterans Committee 6:30 PM	12 Bingo at the Bar	13 Trivia Night	14 MSPE 5-9 pm Game Rm
15 Cornhole Tournament w/ Black River Baggers 12 noon to 5 pm MSPE 1-3 pm Lodge Rm	16 House Committee Mtg 6:30 PM LCR Party 6:30 PM	17 Steak Night Tuesday 5:30-7:30 PM \$15.95 Queen of Hearts 7PM	18 Burger Night 5:30 PM—7:30 PM	19 No Lodge Session	20 	21
22 Tom & Jerry Sunday 12 noon to 2 PM for Members only	23 American Red Cross Blood Drive 2 to 6 pm Banquet Room	24 Closing Christmas Eve At 5:00 PM	25 Merry Christmas!! 	26 Bulletin Folding	27 	28
29 	30 	31 NYE Party @ the Lodge Details inside	1st of January Happy New Year!! \$1 Bloody Mary's @ the Lodge 12 noon—2 pm		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



Watertown

B.P.O.E. #496

www.elks496.org

LODGE HOURS

Monday	2:00PM—9:00PM
Tuesday-Wednesday	2:00PM—9:00PM
Thursday	2:00AM—9:00PM *
*Except on Meeting Nights	
Friday	2:00AM—11:00PM
Saturday	11:00AM—11:00PM
Sunday	12:00PM— 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!

December 2024

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	Jonathan M Pitts
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 — Share

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Watertown, NY 13601

WATERTOWN ELKS LODGE #496
728 Bradley Street
P.O. Box 6008
Watertown, New York 13601-6008

Harvest Dinner for Senior Citizens

Annual Harvest Dinner for Senior Citizens turned out to be another HUGE success!! 390 meals were delivered to senior citizens apartments in the area as well as over 200 meals served via drive-thru at the Lodge parking lot. The volunteers for this event was once again HUGE! 35 volunteers with a few that were non-members. The chairman of this event wants to give a sincere and heartfelt thanks to those who volunteered and to those who have made donations to this cause.

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and looking forward to our next successful Harvest Dinner next year!!

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!

Lodge Bulletin Volunteers

January 2025 Lodge Bulletin help is needed on December 26th starting at about 6 PM.

Watertown Lodge's Pledge to Our Veterans

The Veterans Committee continues to work their Holiday magic! This committee has worked tirelessly to stand ready to assist the area Veterans programs and with local veterans in need. Several Welcome Home Kits given out (four so far totaling \$2,400), several members assisted some local Veterans with gathering groceries at the Feed Our Vets, provided warm meals at our annual Veterans Dinner at our Lodge, etc. The list of committee's success is getting longer and longer.

The annual Veterans' Dinner continues to be a major success. All the foods were donated and a large number of volunteers came out to help cook and serve meals. Menu included Turkey, mashed potatoes, ———>



(Pictured above: Veterans Committee made a donation of \$1,000 to Joseph P Dwyer Veterans Peer Support Center in Jefferson County)

—> stuffings, gravy, vegetables and dinner rolls. Nearly 100 meals were served. Guest speaker of the night was Retired United States Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Eric B. Soluri. Fort Drum singer was present as well as their Color Guard.

Included in the night was Veterans Committee's \$1,000 donation to Joseph P Dwyer Veterans Peer Support Center in Jefferson County that Watertown Lodge received through Freedom Grant.

Reverend Linda Taber of Cedar Mountain Mission in Sandy Creek did the opening and closing prayers for the evening. During the evening, Reverend Linda Taber and her husband also made a donation to the Veterans Committee thanking them for the work our Lodge's Veterans Committee continues to do. The committee has raised \$776! Monies raised will enable Veterans Committee to continue their work in supporting local Veterans programs, perform more Welcome Home Kits, and in general, assist local Veterans in distress.



(Pictured above: Reverend Linda Taber of Cedar Mountain Mission and her husband made a donation to the Veterans Committee)

Watertown Elks Lodge # 496 would like to sincerely thank the Veterans Committee for fulfilling one of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks' prominent mottos, "Elks Care ~ Elks Share"!

Past Exalted Ruler / Veterans Committee chairman Ed Massa would like to express his most sincere thanks to his committee members for their hard work and commitment in making this one of the most successful committee of the Lodge.

Major Project

Thank you to all of the volunteers and made donations to help make the Annual Craft and Vendor Show a success!! We appreciate each and every one of you that donated time, lottery tickets and other donations.

Mark your calendars for January 18th! We have Dueling Piano's coming! It is going to be our BEST fundraiser ever for Major Project. There will be a limit of 160 tickets at \$40 each advanced and \$50 each at the door. Only 5 corporate tables will be available for sponsorship of \$500 each. Tickets will be available at the Lodge. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Thanks—Lisa Green

Dictionary Project

Dictionary Project is still underway and hoping to be completed by Christmas. Dictionaries have been delivered to 9 schools so far and the third graders receiving them have been excited about them. Coloring books regarding drug awareness were also given out, as well as the third graders being educated about the Elks' Drug Awareness program. Project funded by Gratitude Grant of \$2,500.

SUDS FOR VETS



Another donation to the Suds for Vets was made. Thank you to the members and guests that have left donations in the jar at the Lodge.

Backpack Program

Checks were delivered to nine school districts that our Lodge serves. Total amount of \$6,000 that was received from the Beacon Grant for the Back Program ended up going to 28 different schools. All schools were thrilled with our Lodge's contribution.



125th Anniversary / State President's Visit



On November 16, 2024, our Lodge celebrated its 125th Anniversary. Officially, we became a Lodge on June 22, 1899. New York State President Tania DeFrank (the first female NYS President) was in attendance and spoke to the crowd about all the good things our Lodge has done for the community. A little more than 100 people were in attendance. Meal for the evening included Italian style buffet and was delicious!!

It was great to see representation from all 10 Lodges which helped make the celebration special. PER Kevin Mastellon read a brief history of the Lodge. Senator Scott Gray presented the Lodge with a proclamation in celebration of the anniversary. Assemblyman Mark Walczyk and Mayor Sarah Pierce were unable to attend but sent a proclamation to the Lodge. Those in attendance received a special 125th Anniversary pin. A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers - the cooks, the servers, those who cleaned up, the steward and also the PER Association who organized the event.

Elks Memorial Sunday Service Sunday, December 1, 2024



Our order has decreed that the first Sunday in December be set as a day for Elks to gather and freshen with the dew of recollection the tender blossoms of hope and love entwined about the memory of their departed. The ceremony will take place in our Lodge starting at 2:00 PM. Luncheon will follow the ceremony. As of writing of this bulletin, the following are the names of the deceased in the past year:

Darwin Danks # 8153, LM James L Coullier # 6099, James P Distefano # 6942, LM Joseph A Sylvester # 5586, George A Grappotte # 8307, William P Coty # 6907, LM George J Eassa # 6405, LM William E Berkman # 5150, LM Kenneth W Lanning # 5288, David G Coleman # 6432, LM Renald R Martini # 6813, Scott B Lavere # 7874, Darrel Fitzgerald # 9070, LM Stephen A Casion # 6741, Eddie Davis # 7697, LM Thomas D Arvan # 6362, Allen Drake # 7091, William J Lewis # 7604, Mark D Craig # 7485, David L Kay # 8901, Ronald E Spicer # 6604, Thomas E Bartelson # 5623, LM John A Wager # 4876, LM James E Humphrey # 6088, Michael M Berkman Sr # 7139, Michele L Freislich # 8075.