

Exalted Ruler's Message

To my Brother and Sister Elks, I hope you are handling the Winter Season well. Old Man Winter has given us an old fashion winter. Thank you for supporting the Lodge by attending the activities we have held. The month of February is coming to an end. March is bringing many events to the Lodge. We have Bingo, Trivia, Sip N Paint and dinners planned. Our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held on March 22, 2025 for all who have volunteered their time at our events. On March 29, 2025 is the Installation of Officers and dinner. It's been my pleasure serving the past year as your Exalted Ruler. Thank you. I want to thank everyone who has helped make this year a success. If anyone has any questions or concerns about our Lodge, please feel free to contact me.

Fraternally yours,
ER Michael Cummings

Leading Knight / ER Elect's Message:

By now, most of you have received the letter from the Grand Exalted Ruler, which paints a very bleak picture of our Lodge. I can not speak much about what happened in the past but for the last year, the Lodge has continued to make improvements to ensure we do not lose money and we are currently showing a profit. I can assure you with the help of dedicated members and volunteers, we will stay solvent and continue to provide a Lodge that all members and guests can enjoy.

Please do not get discouraged by the letter. The Lodge celebrated its 125th anniversary and will continue on for many, many more. Please pay your dues as soon as possible. They go a long ways towards our operating expenses. We always need volunteers and without them, our events that help our community could not be accomplished. I look forward to doing everything I possibly can to move our Lodge forward. Please come out and attend our many great events that we will continue to have.

Respectfully yours, Phil Nuffer—Esteemed Leading Knight

Secretary's Message:

Thank you go out to all those who have paid their dues early!! I, as Secretary of our Lodge # 496, am very happy to be super busy keeping up with the dues payments.

As of the writing of this message, we have 1,297 members with 78 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. 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. It also helps us maintain our beautiful facility.

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: **Kelsey Darou**—Watertown—Tattoo Artist @ Kelsey Darou Esthetics—proposed by Nieko Crescenzi.

Not Renewing?

If any of you current members are having second thoughts about renewing, PLEASE get in touch with me. I just hope you're **NOT** having any. If any of you are planning on not renewing, please let me know so that you can fill out an Absolute Dimit form so that our Lodge doesn't suffer a financial loss for the 2025-2026 year. This must be done before our second meeting in March (March 20th). Delinquent members do **NOT** qualify for an Absolute Dimit unless they pay for the dues that they owe for 2024-2025 year. Delinquent members have until March 25th to get current or they will be dropped from our membership roll.

What is an Absolute Dimit? An Absolute Dimit allows an Elk member to leave a Lodge in good standing, much like an "honorable discharge".

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. For ENF, please consider joining the Fidelity Club. Just sign up, consider automatic withdrawal of minimum \$5 per month and forget about it. It's so much easier to do and knowing you've made significant contributions to such a worthy cause.

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, March 6th is our Lodge Session. Thursday, March 20th is Lodge Session and initiation of new members.

PER Dennis J Brady, Lodge Secretary

Watertown Elks Lodge 496

728 Bradley Street

Phone: (315) 788-1270

Text only: (315) 486-0057

Watertown NY 13601

Email: dj0057@me.com



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!

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

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

BELL JAR REPORT

January 2025

Total Income:	\$13, 475.00
Total Expenses:	\$5,798.58
Worthy Causes:	\$0.00
Net Income:	\$7,676.42

Having Second Thoughts?

Leave Your Doubt at the Door

Every year, when the time comes to renew your Elks membership, a thought may creep in: Does my membership really matter? Maybe—just maybe—you’ve felt that moment of hesitation. But let us tell you this, loud and clear: Leave your doubt at the door. Because when you walk through that Lodge door, you stand in a place where heroes are honored, children are lifted, communities are strengthened, and kindness wins. You are part of something that stretches across generations, across towns and cities, across this entire nation. You are an Elk. And that matters more than you may ever know. So, leave your doubt at the door.

House Committee

Hello Watertown Elks 496, March is here and what an action packed month we have with Activities and Entertainment. It has been a real joy seeing so many faces in our Lodge recently for the many events we have held. I promise you in these upcoming months and this year we will be all systems go regarding our events schedule. Live entertainment, Dinners, and activities will not only continue but increase in the year to come. I would personally like to thank each and every volunteer who helped out this year making every event a success. Without the hard work of our staff and Volunteers we could not do it, so I thank you. All things considered this year, I truly feel OUR lodge is back on the right track and I feel the best is yet to come!

House Committee Chair,
Anthony DeMiceli

March Events

Saturday, March 1st at 2 PM

Sip-N-Paint with Lynette—\$50/person

Includes all supplies—limited to first 30 only

Thursday, March 13th at 6:30 PM

Bingo at the Bar

(Activity Committee Event)

Friday, March 14th at 7:00 PM

Trivia Night

(Activity Committee Event)

Thursday, March 27th at 6:30 PM

Bingo at the Bar

(Activity Committee Event)

Sunday, March 30th at Noon

Cornhole Tournament w/ Black River Baggers

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".

March Meetings...

March 6th—Lodge Session

March 6th—Trustees 6:30 PM

March 10th—House Committee 6:30 PM

March 11th—Activity Committee 6:30 PM

March 19th—Veterans Committee 6:30 PM

March 20th—Lodge Session/Initiation

March 26th—Board of Directors 6:30 PM

Upcoming Events To Keep an Eye Out For...

April—Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

May—Mother's Day Brunch

May—Boys and Girls Lacrosse Fun Day



Steering Committee Progress Report:

By now, you should be aware of the Grand Lodge Executive Order that has installed a "Steering Committee" consisting of myself, Brian Scott PDD, and Tim Richards PDD, two of the most knowledgeable Elks I know. We are essentially volunteer Management Consultants. Our task is to instruct, guide, mentor, and assist the Watertown Elks Lodge in improving business practices, budgeting, adherence to protocol, and general management. This request for assistance came from several concerned and involved Watertown Lodge volunteers who deeply care about their lodge and want it to thrive now and in the future.

The cooperation and enthusiastic interest we, the Steering Committee, have received from the dedicated volunteers of the Watertown Elks Lodge has been nothing short of fantastic. I am thrilled to share that significant improvements have already been achieved. Hard work is paying off. Fiscal management has improved, planning has improved, and transparency continues to improve. Financial reports will be posted on the bulletin board monthly.

Attendance is up, events are well-attended, and your officers and committees have lined up a fantastic list of activities for you, the members, to come in and enjoy your lodge and the revived camaraderie that you joined for.

While more work is needed, rest assured that great strides have been made to ensure a successful future for your Lodge to serve you the members and the Watertown community. This process requires your involvement as well. If you can support the lodge with just one visit per month, the Watertown Lodge will accomplish the turnaround to once again be the place you want and deserve to be part of.

Faternally,

William Schaab DDGER

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

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

bill@nce-schaab.com

What's Happening around North Central District? 75 YEARS

Carthage Elks Lodge #1762 will be celebrating their 75 Years of Elkdom on March 8th! 75 years of services to the Carthage area communities is something to be commended for. Watertown Lodge # 496 sponsored Carthage Lodge in 1948 and they were chartered in 1949. They will be celebrating on March 8th with complimentary cocktail hour from 5:30 to 6:45 PM, Prime Rib buffet dinner at 7 PM and live music with Cluster Funk from 8 to 11 PM. This is likely going to be a sold out event, so KUDOS to Carthage Lodge #1762!!

100 YEARS

Saranac Lake Elks Lodge # 1508 is currently celebrating their 100th Years of Elkdom in the beautiful Adirondack Mountains! May 22nd, 1925, a group of 100 men joined together and formed their charter. Don't forget to wish Saranac Lake Elks Lodge a Happy 100th Birthday on that day!

PER Association

PER Association meeting will be on Wednesday, April 10th at 6:30 PM. Election of officers will take place on that evening. Also, discussion will take place regarding PER Association dues.



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 login to be able to sign up.

Lodge Bulletin Volunteers

April 2025 Lodge Bulletin help is needed on Monday evening, March 25th starting at about 6:30 PM.

ER's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

The ER's Volunteer Appreciation dinner is set for Saturday, March 22nd. Dinner for the night will be Roast Beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad and rolls and piece of cake. 5 to 6 PM cocktail with dinner to follow. This is an invitation only event for those that have volunteered at our Lodge throughout the past year. This is an evening where the Exalted Ruler expresses his appreciation to all the volunteers and employees that have helped our Lodge flourish. Also, there will be awards given out and certificates of appreciation.

Installation of Officers

Installation of Officers will take place on Saturday, March 29th with Italian style buffet as the dinner for the night. Installation ceremony will take place at 7:30 PM following the dinner, which is at 6 PM in the Lodge room. Cocktail hour 5 to 6 PM. Dinner will be in the banquet room and the cost is \$20 per person.

Exalted Ruler: Philip K Nuffer

Trustees

Leading Knight: Anthony DeMiceli

1-Year: Beth Cassada

Loyal Knight: Karen Miller

2-Year: Jay Miller

Lecturing Knight: Thomas Lynch

3-Year: PSVP Joan Carlo

Secretary: PER Dennis J Brady

4-Year: PER Anne Fleming

Treasurer: Beth A Bennett

5-Year: Linnie Clark

Esquire: Suzanne Renzi-Falge

Chaplain:

Inner Guard:

Tiler: Sheri Doroha

Tuesday Steak Nights / Wednesday Burgers

Tuesday nights is our steak nights. Steak dinner is \$15.95 and comes with choice of fries or baked potato, salad and dinner roll. Dinner is 5:30 to 7:30 PM.

Wednesday nights is our burger nights. On Wednesday, **March 5th**, a fish sandwich will be available in observance of Ash Wednesday! Fish sandwich will be \$10.95 and comes with fries. Regular delicious half pound burger and fries \$10.95. Make it a deluxe with lettuce, tomato and onions for \$12.95. Add bacon for additional \$1.00. BLT's and fries also available at \$7.95.

Interested in cooking for either of those nights? Let us know! It's always fun having a team together to cook and serving our members and sponsored guests dining with us!

Tuesday, March 18th is Orientation night and steak dinner is free for our Candidates.

Major Project—Cerebral Palsy

What an amazing two months of Major Project events we've had! The Dueling Pianos on January 18th and the 2nd Annual Winter Bash on February 22nd!! Special Thank You's to the amazing volunteers in helping make these two events a success! Thank you to all those that attended and support our two big fundraising events to help our state Major Project, which is Cerebral Palsy!

Special thanks to our sponsors for the 2nd Annual Winter Bash: Doldo Bros., Joan Carlo, Mike Cummings, Anne Fleming, Jay and Karen Miller, Michelle Castor, Amber Leween, Amber Oliver, Leslie and the girls, O.D. Greene, and Deb and Biff Green!!

Thank you to the band Full Circle for getting our Lodge rocking through the night! Over 75 people danced the night away! See you all next year!

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 Phil Nuffer, he may need YOU!

Watertown Elks # 496 Goes GREEN



March 14th—17th, our Lodge goes Green over the weekend.

On March 14th is Trivia night with St. Patrick's theme.

March 15th, DJ Johnny Spezzano will be at our Lodge in the game room from 7 to 10 PM and Irish Step dancers from 8 to 8:20 PM.

March 16th is Sunday Funday. Drink Specials TBD all day

March 17th—Happy St Patrick's Day! Lodge opens at noon until 9 PM. Corned Beef Dinner from 5 to 7:30 PM.

Dinner will be \$14.95 and will include corned beef & cabbage and potatoes, no salad or dinner rolls. Cut-off date for the tickets is March 14th! Get your tickets soon! Irish or not, come and have some fun!!!

140 CLUB

The dinner for the 140 Club members will take place on April 10th. It will likely be a buffet type dinner. You must be a paid-up 140 club member to attend. Please be sure you are paid up by the end of March.

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

March 2025 Birthday

1 Michael E Carpenter	5 Laurie Bickel	8 Dennis J VanCamp	16 Michael Perkins	23 Ronald P Laduke	26 Elizabeth Slack-Joles
1 Joseph G Peters	5 Christin Filippelli	9 David D Corey	16 Julie A Sparacino	23 Matthew J Strader	27 Gary Grill
2 Timothy Ames	5 Darcie J Lepper	9 Keith M Rose	16 Miles J West	23 Elijah Karriem Tezeno	27 Kimberly Roberts
2 Robert J Casper	5 Stephen J Rae	9 Sally Lyn Van Tassel	17 Larry L Beerman	24 John W Allen	28 Terry A Byard
2 Andy Fredenburg	5 Joseph A Tarzia	10 Brian T Whalen	17 Sean P Brett	24 Kim Marie Anderson	28 Donald L Calarco
2 Deborah A Frickman	6 Kimberly Burnard	12 Charles N Hosmer	17 David V Buerger	24 William J Coppola	28 Daniel A Davis
2 Kenneth R Scott	6 Lisa A Cooley	12 John Morris-Smith	17 Dale S Porter	24 Aileen Dawley	28 Rosemary G Denesha
3 Joseph M Butler	6 Patrick D Hanlon	12 Robert G Woodward	17 Thomas C Powlin	24 Sean Haley	28 Timothy Drake
3 Joan E Carlo	6 John H Hulbert	14 William 'Bill' Kamalsky	18 Jerry Hunneyman	24 Tyler Hayes	29 James Alberly
3 William Coursen	6 Edward J Scharf	14 George D Toper	18 Shawn Smith	24 Robert L Seeber	30 Kelly Biedekapp
3 Patricia Dasno	6 Michael Sholette	15 Michael Jon Grandjean	18 Jeffrey St Croix	25 Michael K Christie	30 Stephan A Hermann
3 Napoleon Dobbins	6 Kevin James Vine	15 Jason Hutchinson	19 Martha Jones	25 Robert N Hedger	30 David S Missert
3 Gordon E Matraw Jr	6 Shannon Wilson	15 Lance L Peterson	19 Robin A Partridge	25 Donald B Shaw	30 Laurie M Nohle
3 Claudia Pickett	7 Karen E Gerken	15 Mark A Robert	19 Daniel J Reff	25 Heather L Sullivan	30 Bernard Tufo Jr.
3 Ronald T Quartulli	7 Vickie L Staie	16 Lisa A Barre	20 Kevin L Saber	26 Carrie Bernhard	31 Daniel Fuller
4 William P Doyle II	8 Geoffery Duvall	16 Philip Clement	22 Gilbert A Hurlburt	26 Robin Killenbeck	31 Taylor LaVere
4 Steven G Knight	8 Thomas R Gagnon	16 Angela M Gault	22 Jacob Navarra	26 Rebecca Mabry	31 Terry A Thompson
4 Darrin Prance	8 Jason Stowell	16 Kathy L Overton	23 Dave M Bonney		



March 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
2 Del Leween Funday Bowling League 1 PM MSPE—Lodge Room	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 Ash Wednesday Fish Sandwich Special!	6 Trustees 6:30 PM Lodge Session 7:30 PM	7 1—Sip-N-Paint See Inside MSPE—Game Rm 8—MSPE—Lodge Rm 12—3 pm	
9 Del Leween Funday Bowling League 1 PM	10 House Committee Mtg 6:30 PM Lacrosse Officials Lodge Room	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 Trivia Night 7:00 PM	15 MSPE—Banquet Room 4-7PM MSPE—Lodge Room 1-5 PM DJ Johnny Spezzano in Game Room 7-10 PM
16 Del Leween Funday Bowling League 1 PM	17 LCR Party 6:30 PM St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner 5—7:30 PM Watertown Lacrosse	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	20 Lodge Session 7:30 PM	21 MSPE—Game Room	22 ER's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner MSPE—Lodge Room
23 Del Leween Funday Bowling League 1 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	29 Installation of Officers
30 Cornhole Tournament Black River Baggers 12 noon—5 pm Del Leween Funday Bowling League 1 PM	31	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	2:00PM—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

March 2025

Officers 2024—2025

Exalted Ruler	Michael Cummings
Est. Leading Knight	Philip K Nuffer
Est. Loyal Knight	Vacant
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
Beth Cassada	Mediator: Vic James
Jay Miller	House Committee: Anthony DeMiceli
PSVP Joan Carlo	Bar Manager: Geoff Matraw
PER Anne M Fleming	Lodge Steward: Barb Yerdon



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Elks Care — *Elks* Share

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Watertown, NY 13601

WATERTOWN ELKS LODGE #496
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