

Hilltop Hospitality Newsletter

April/May 2025



Lodge #2277

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Chartered in 1963

A Message from the Exalted Ruler - Brendan Hopkins

Dear Esteemed Members of Westminster Elks Lodge,

It is with great humility and immense gratitude that I have been elected and accepted the position of your Exalted Ruler. To be entrusted with the leadership of this lodge is not only an honor but a profound responsibility. As Exalted Rule, I will lead with the strength and passion of those who came before me; remaining visible, present, and always available to serve and support our members.

I want to take a moment to reflect on where we stand, as we look forward to the future. We have made great strides, and I'm proud to share that our Lodge is experiencing steady growth, particularly among younger families who are bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm into our fold. These new members are a testament to the relevance of our Lodge and the timeless appeal of the values we stand for.

This year, our motto will be **"Honoring the Past and Shaping the Future"**. May this be a reminder that while we must stay true to the traditions that have always made our organization great, we must also evolve to meet the challenges and opportunities of the present and future. Our Lodge has long been a beacon of community, charity, and fellowship, and we must remain committed to these core values as we look ahead.

Being fully transparent, our Lodge is facing our share of financial hardship during this economic time. However, I want to assure you that the board is working diligently to bring us back to profitability. While we are actively addressing these challenges, we must recognize that the health and longevity of our Lodge depend on all of us. Together, we must not only weather this storm but lay a solid foundation for the future.

Members may notice slight increases in food and alcohol prices this year. These changes are necessary to ensure the continued success of our operations and are required for the health of the clubs physical infrastructure. I want to assure you that you will see the corresponding improvements and we will be fully transparent as to where we are making improvements.

This year, we will continue to uphold the four pillars that our founders established: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity. These pillars are the groundwork upon which our organization was built, and we will continue to honor them with every decision we make. Our commitment to giving back to the Westminster community remains as strong as ever, and I encourage all of you to actively engage in these efforts.

As we move forward, I ask that you reflect on how you can contribute to the Lodge's success. Whether through volunteering your time, offering financial support, or simply supporting the Lodge's activities, your involvement is vital. Without the selflessness and dedication of each of you, we will not be able to achieve the goals we've set for ourselves.

The future of this Lodge depends on each and every one of us. With that, I challenge you this year to ask yourself: What can you do to make a difference and ensure the future of our Lodge for generations to come?

Together, we will shape a bright future for the Westminster Elks Lodge, honoring our past, and embracing the opportunities ahead. Thank you for your ongoing support, your dedication, and your commitment to the Lodge. I look forward to working with all of you to make this a year of progress, growth, success, and some fun. See you at the lodge!

Exalted Ruler		Secretary		Board of Trustees	
Brendan Hopkins	240-393-1054	Junior Davidson	443-375-7168	Tom Anderson	1 Year
Esteemed Leading Knight		PER, PDDGER, PSP		Andrew Dean	2 Year
Christy Landsman	443-375-7129	Tiler		Sharon Hinton	3 Year
Esteemed Loyal Knight		TBD		Keith Reed	4 Year
Peggy Markovic	443-604-5521	Inner Guard		Tom Hayes	5 Year
Esteemed Lecturing Knight		TBD		West District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler	
Paul Tribles	443-414-3867	Chaplain		Michael Collins	
Esquire		Joe Lewis	717-634-0140		
Patrick Jacobs		Presiding Justice			
Treasurer		Hon. Haven N. Shoemaker, Jr., Esq.			
James Jaderborg	410-790-8627				

WESTMINSTER ELKS LODGE #2277

April/May 2025

Exciting Updates and Growth – Your Participation Matters!

By Andrew Dean

As the lodge year wraps up and we move into the next, we are excited to share key updates that not only have helped strengthen our lodge's financial health but also created more opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate! We need your participation to make the lodge exceptional.

One of the biggest changes over the past two years was upgrading our payment processing system to Square. This step helped lower credit card fees and overall costs, and streamline transactions to offset some of the rising costs while also making it easier and more efficient. We established a contract with a new linen service and a few other service providers (e.g. snow removal) to ensure quality service while reducing overall contract costs. The change to Square and the linens are saving several thousand dollars a year alone.

Another win was renegotiating our nearly 30-year-old billboard contract to increase revenue potential by over 300%! The move focused on minimizing the lodge's obligations while increasing the much-needed revenue to support the lodge, our community activities, and ongoing facility maintenance and improvements. The lodge will now be paid a fair market rate for rental of our grounds that house the billboard. Look for the new billboard on 140 in the coming months, and know that each time it displays an ad, we are making more money than we have in years. A big nod to James Jaderborg for negotiating the option for the lodge to run ads for free in any unsold slots, which will help to promote our lodge and events.

The lodge needs a lot of love these days, and we are not talking about just the "small stuff." Our aging lodge needs some bigger repairs, including roof repairs, heating system replacements, cooling system upgrades, refrigeration updates for our kitchen walk-ins and freezers and more. These are large items and they are critical to our lodge operations, and sooner or later, they will have to be addressed. These are critical investments to ensure our Lodge remains a comfortable and thriving place for you and future generations. We need every member's support to keep us moving forward.

Our lodge is one of the best in the district, and not just by the size or the amount we give to ENF, but by active and committed members supporting lodge and community activities. As Brendan mentioned it's a challenging time for the lodge financially. The Board and many members are working hard to overcome those challenges. Our expenses simply outpace our revenue, and that can't continue.

Some of the ways you can help are:

- 1. Visit the Lodge!** Come up at least once a week and join your fellow members for a beverage, a snack and some laughs. Tuesday Bingo is a blast, half price wine Wednesdays draw a great crowd, Thursday evenings are packed and you can't go wrong on Friday and Saturday!
- 2. Attend Events!** If you see an event coming up, join in! The more involved our members, the more enjoyable they are and the more successful they are.
- 3. Bring a Friend!** We each have many friends that we enjoy spending time. Bring them to the lodge and offer an application. That way, next time you want to have a cigar night or book club meeting, your friends can join you at our amazing lodge facility!
- 4. Volunteer Your Time!** This doesn't mean you have to serve on the Board or something more active (though, the lodge needs new leaders and ideas, always). Even volunteering an hour or two to help with something you enjoy makes a difference. Do you like to paint? Help the team freshening up the foyer. Are you a tech person? Help the group that works on the lodge computers. Love to talk to others? Help the outreach group contact our members. Every effort makes a difference.
- 5. Donate Your Wisdom, Work or Wealth!** - Giving comes in many forms, not just cash. The lodge will always welcome cash donations, but bringing your expertise to a committee or offering to fix or enhance something using your skills is also powerful.

As members of our amazing Elks order, we are not just customers at the bar. In fact, we are not customers at all, we are fraternal members. This means the lodge is everyone's lodge, and it's up to each of us to help in whatever way we can to make the lodge the absolute best it can be.

Your ongoing participation fuels our lodge's progress. When we took our obligation, we all committed to serving others, and the lodge needs your help, now more than ever. We are counting on you.

WESTMINSTER ELKS LODGE #2277

April/May 2025

★ Big Ten Winners

Thank you for your support of our Big Ten Fundraiser. We reached 95% of our goal and raised over \$3,800 for the Lodge!

Congratulations to our Winners:

Gavin Bullock, Steve Collins, Gordon Hinton, Scott Jenkins, Ken Kacmarski, Rick Landsman, Bryan Myers, Dan Stoner, and R.L. Zumbrun (2 times).



June 19th, 2025
10 AM - 3 PM

Lodge #2277
538 Gorsuch Road
Westminster, MD 21157

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-722-2767.



Lodge and Board Meetings

Board of Directors meetings are 2nd and 4th
Wednesdays - 7 PM

Lodge meetings are 4th Monday - 6 PM
April there will be two meetings, 2nd and 4th Monday.

Lodge and Board meetings are open to all Elk members.



Book Club

The Women by Kristin Hannah
Wednesday, April 2

James by Percival Everett
Wednesday, May 7

All are welcome to attend!



In an effort to show our gratitude for members who drop in often, participate in our charity work and events, we will be kicking off Member Loyalty Program in April.

Stay tuned for more details!



June - Save the Date

Belmont Stakes	June 7th
Flag Day Ceremony	June 14th
Blood Drive	June 19th
Golf Tournament	June 23rd

Visit our website for lodge news, events, menu, dinner specials, charity opportunities and more!



WESTMINSTER ELKS LODGE #2277

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Activities Committee

Joining the Elks Lodge Activities Committee is an exciting opportunity to make a meaningful impact in the community and lodge, while spending time with a great group of Elks members!

As a member of the committee, you'll be involved in planning and organizing a variety of events that bring people together, financially support our lodge, and promote the Elks' mission of charity and fellowship, we need your help!

For more information on joining: Lauren Hopkins - laurenhopkins326@outlook.com



47th Annual Fletcher/Falcone Charity Golf Tournament

The tournament is our major fundraiser for the youth charities that support college scholarships over (\$22,000 given out this year), Camp Barrett (a camp for deserving and underprivileged boys and girls), Scouts and Girl Scouts, Elk Drug Awareness Program, various donations to local charities like Carroll Food Sunday, Live, Hope, Laugh, Shepherds Staff, and our annual Hoop Shoot contest. Over the last ten years, we have donated in excess of \$500,000 on these programs. Last year, we raised over \$29,000 and this year we have set the goal at \$30,000.

Event: June 23, 2025, 8:00 am Shotgun start at Quail Valley Golf Club, Littlestown PA. \$110 per person includes beverages during the round and catered lunch in the pavilion at the course. Fee also includes participation in all door prizes at the event. Visit the website for more information:

<http://www.quailvalleygc.com/>

Participation: Players can sign up using forms found at the lodge, the lodge web site elks2277.org or by contacting Jim Aumiller at jaumiller@jhu.edu.

Sponsorships: Each year the majority of our revenue is achieved by cash sponsorships, below is a list of those sponsorships. If you are interested in a sponsorship, contact **Jim Aumiller at jaumiller@jhu.edu**.

Thank you to recent major >\$500 sponsor commitments.
Fletcher Funeral Home \$1,000 Dale Fletcher Co-Refreshment Sponsor
English American \$1,000 Mark Falcone Co-Refreshment Sponsor
Tom Hayes Real Estate \$1,000 Tom Hayes Golf Cart Sponsor
Formulate Corporation \$750 Peter DeMuth Co-Golf Range Sponsor
SwitchBridge LLC \$750 Aaron Davis Co-Golf Range Sponsor
Concrete Restoration & Protection Inc. \$500 Golf Lunch Sponsor
Scott Jenkins \$500

Membership: If you would like to join the golf committee, we regularly meet for an hour a month usually the first Thursday of each month. Contact **Jim Aumiller at jaumiller@jhu.edu**.

WESTMINSTER ELKS LODGE #2277

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Grant Committee Report Lodge Year

April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025

Our Lodge had a successful year supporting the local community by disseminating \$12,000 in grants to several organizations.

- **Beacon Grant (\$4,000)** supported Live, Hope, Laugh and our annual Christmas Town Event.
- **Gratitude Grant (\$4,000)** supported the Westminster Rescue Mission to purchase an electric pallet jack that will allow staff to move more food with less human effort and increase safety.
- **Spotlight Grant (\$2,000)** for Carroll County Veteran's Independence Project (CCVIP). We sponsored a veteran's family of six by shopping and wrapping gifts for each member and purchased essential need items for the CCVIP closet, which will support the local veteran community.
- **First State Grant (\$1,000)** supported local veterans by purchasing 59 wreaths that were laid on graves during Wreaths Across America, which is a nationwide, coordinated wreath-laying ceremony.
- **Second State Grant (\$1,000)** supported the Westminster YMCA Fresh Mart food pantry by shopping and delivering the items to the YMCA.

The Lodge's grants are received in part as a result of the donations our members make to The Elks National Foundation (ENF). Please consider a donation to ENF so we can continue to see these funds returned to the lodge and support our local community.

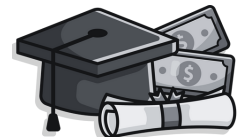
If you have ideas for future grants, please contact Peggy Markovic or Al Painter.

Committee Chairs



Activities
Camp Barrett
Communications
Hall Rental
Drug Awareness
ENF
Flag Day
Jernick Fund
Golf Committee
Grants
House
Hoop Shoot
Membership
Newsletter
PER Association
Scholarships
Veterans

Lauren Hopkins
Jr. & Diane Davidson
Christy Landsman
Cindy Potter
Ed Dannettel
Bob Detrow, PER
Bob Detrow, PER
Christy Landsman
Jim Aumiller
Peggy Markovic/Al Painter
Andrew Dean
Denny Snyder/Tom Scott
Paul Tribles
Peggy Markovic
Sharon Hinton
Gary Youngworth
TBD



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Secretary's Notes

Notice: Make sure your contact information is up to date. This includes your address, phone number and email. If you have a change, please contact the Secretary, by email (Elks2277@gmail.com) or call the Lodge (410-848-2277). Dues Notice have been mailed for the next Lodge year April 1, 2025, thru March 31, 2026.

Regular Members' dues are \$105.25, and Life Members' dues are \$63.25. If you have not received your notice, you can mail a check to the Lodge or pay in person at the Lounge.

New Life Membership requirements were approved by the membership in attendance at the Grand Lodge Convention in Atlanta. They are 30 years total as an Elk, no age limit, and a member in good standing. You need to fill out a Life member application and return it to the Secretary to become a life member at which time your request will be balloted upon at a regular Lodge Meeting.

Reminder: There is a \$10 fee for all key cards that have been lost or broken.



Membership/Lapsation Report Westminster, MD Lodge 2277

Beginning Membership Total 4/1/2024: 540

Increases

Initiated	21
Affiliated:	0
Reinstated:	2
Subtotal:	23

Decreases

Dropped:	0
Transferred Out:	1
Absolute Dimit:	0
Deaths:	10
Expelled:	0
Subtotal:	11

Calculated Membership Total:	552
CLMS Active Members:	552
Average Age:	64.78
Gain/Loss:	12

Delinquency

Six Months:	0
One Year:	49
Over One Year:	1
Total:	50
Lapsation Rate:	9.26%

Applications on Hand

Waiting to read at next lodge meeting:	0
In the hands of the investigating committee:	1
Ready for balloting:	0
Ready for Orientation:	0
Ready for Initiation:	0
Ready for Affiliation	0
Ready for Reinstatement	0
Other	0
Total:	1

Life Members

Life Members:	92
Honorary Life Members:	5
Total:	97
Life Percentage:	17

WESTMINSTER ELKS LODGE #2277

April/May 2025

COMING
SOON



Updated Menu

April 2025!

Bringing back lodge favorites and adding some new bites, ensuring every visit has a tasty choice for all.

COMING
SOON

EAT, DRINK AND
BE CHARITABLE



MENU

WESTMINSTER ELKS #2277

SHAREABLES

FRENCH FRIES, ONION
RINGS OR TOTS

MOZZARELLA STICKS (6)
Served with Marinara.

CHEESE CURDS

CHICKEN TENDERS (3)

PRETZEL BITES
Served with honey mustard or cheese.

WINGS - TRADITIONAL
OR BONELESS
*Hot, mild, old bay, honey, BBQ or plain.
Served with blue cheese or ranch.*

1/2 LB STEAMED SHRIMP



BURGERS & SANDWICHES

*All burgers and sandwiches are served
with french fries or tots.
Gluten free wraps are available.*

TURKEY CLUB
*Served with bacon, lettuce, tomato,
cheese & mayo.*

ELK BURGER
*Served with lettuce, tomato, onion
Add bacon \$1 / cheese \$1*

ELKS GRILLED OR
CRISPY CHICKEN
SANDWICH
*Served with swiss cheese, bacon & pickle.
Kick it up a notch & make it spicy!*

BLT

PIZZA 12"

GF cauliflower crust is available for all pizzas.

RICH'S ROLL TIDE CLASSIC
CHEESE PIZZA
*Mozzarella cheese & classic pizza
sauce.*

MR. FUHR'S HALF DOLLAR
*Half pepperoni, half sausage,
mozzarella cheese & classic pizza
sauce.*

BOB'S GRAND POO-BAH
*Pepperoni, sausage, peppers, onions,
olives, mozzarella cheese & classic
pizza sauce.*

GRAZING ELK
*Peppers, onions, olives, broccoli,
mozzarella cheese & classic pizza
sauce.*

DESSERT

SLICE OF PIE
Ask your server for today's flavor.

PLAIN NY CHEESECAKE

KIDS

*All kids meals (12 and under) are
served with french fries or tots and an
apple juice.*

CHICKEN TENDERS (2)

GRILLED CHEESE

MAC & CHEESE

SALADS



*Dressings: blue cheese, ranch, caesar,
balsamic*

CAESAR SALAD
*Mixed greens with croutons, parmesan
cheese and caesar dressing.*

KEEP IT SIMPLE SALAD
*Mixed greens, cucumbers, tomatoes,
olives, hard boiled egg, shredded
cheddar cheese.*

Add a protein:
Grilled Chicken
Crispy Chicken
Steamed Shrimp
























Don't forget to visit the
website for lodge
monthly Friday night
dinner specials, news and
events!



WESTMINSTER ELKS LODGE #2277

2025



























April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2  1/2 Price Bottle of Wine  Member Feed 5PM  Book Club 6 PM	3	4	5  Queen of Hearts Drawing 7 PM
6 	7 Activities Committee Meeting 5PM	8	9  1/2 Price Bottle of Wine  Board Meeting 6 PM	10  Cigar Night 6 PM	11  Dinner Special Spagetti and Meatballs	12  Easter Egg Hunt 10AM  Queen of Hearts Drawing 7 PM
13 	14 Activities Committee Meeting 5PM  Lodge Meeting 7 PM	15	16  1/2 Price Bottle of Wine	17	18	19  Queen of Hearts Drawing 7 PM
20 	21 Activities Committee Meeting 5PM	22	23  1/2 Price Bottle of Wine  Board Meeting 6 PM	24	25  Dinner Special Crabcakes	26  Queen of Hearts Drawing 7 PM
27 	28 Activities Committee Meeting 5PM  Lodge Meeting 7 PM	29	30  1/2 Price Bottle of Wine			

WESTMINSTER ELKS LODGE #2277

2025

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3  Kentucky Derby 5 PM  Queen of Hearts Drawing 7 PM
4  Activities Committee Meeting 5PM	5  Activities Committee Meeting 5PM	6	7  1/2 Price Bottle of Wine  Book Club 7 PM	8  Cigar Night 6 PM	9  Dinner Special Lasagna	10  Queen of Hearts Drawing 7 PM
11  Activities Committee Meeting 5PM	12  Activities Committee Meeting 5PM	13	14  1/2 Price Bottle of Wine  Board Meeting 7 PM	15	16	17  Preakness 5 PM  Queen of Hearts Drawing 7 PM
18  Activities Committee Meeting 5PM	19  Activities Committee Meeting 5PM	20	21  1/2 Price Bottle of Wine	22	23  Dinner Special Fried Chicken	24  Queen of Hearts Drawing 7 PM
25  Activities Committee Meeting 5PM  Lodge Meeting 67PM	26  Activities Committee Meeting 5PM  Lodge Meeting 67PM	27	28  1/2 Price Bottle of Wine  Board Meeting 6 PM	29	30	31