

Central District News

New Jersey Elks/April 2026/Volume 22, Issue 11



Welcome to Spring in New Jersey; where the weather cannot decide if it is Winter or Summer. And along with Spring comes our lodges' installation of officers. I would like to thank all the retiring lodge officers for their tireless efforts during this past year, and congratulations to the newly elected officers for the 2026-2027 fraternal year. I know you will continue to make the Central District shine bright!

Congratulations to State President-Elect Don Tonachio of Lacey Lodge #2518, Central District District Deputy-Designate Eileen Jennings of New Brunswick Lodge #324 and Central District Vice President-Elect Allen Hartland also from New Brunswick Lodge #324. I look forward to working with them through the end of my year.

Our District Citizen of the Year banquet was held in March at Woodbridge Lodge. The room was packed with Elks, our Honorees and their families. Our District Americanism Committee led by District Chairperson Hank Hart PER put together a great evening that showcased each lodge's Citizen of the Year. Congratulations to all of them. Their accomplishments and life stories were truly inspiring.

Membership in the Central District is growing. Great job in getting all those last-minute initiations done. Thank you for all your hard work in bringing in so many new members during this past year. Let's keep up the good work!

A special shoutout goes to East Brunswick Lodge which has brought in over 50 new members this past year! Wow!

On Saturday, April 11th our District will be holding a "Night of Hope & Support" for one of our own, Elaine Pearson, Edison Ladies Auxiliary President 2018-2026. Let us come together as we support our sister in her fight against ALS. If you cannot make it person, any support would be welcome. Check out the district calendar for all the details.

I hope to see everyone at Stephan J. Terrible Charity Ball on Saturday, April 25th at Woodbridge Lodge. This is chance to get dressed up and have a fun-filled night with great food and dancing all while honoring our SCC Ambassadors and raising funds to support our District Special Children's Committee and Camp Moore.

My last VP Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 29th at Piscataway Lodge. All District Chairpersons will present their committee reports. Exalted Rulers please encourage your officers to attend these meetings. There is a wealth of knowledge reported about all our committees.

"Remember: The help we extend to those in need is added to our own strength".

Fraternally,
Dan Pencak
Central District Vice-President

Please send articles and events to CJElksCalendar@gmail.com



INSIDE THE DISTRICT

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DISTRICT LEADERS

Francis J. Decibus PSDGER
Peter D. Smith PSP

DISTRICT DIGNITARIES

Dan Pencak VP
Dan De Zaio DDGER
Betty Bellanca CDST

Newsletter & Calendar
Bill Seesselberg PER

Our State Project



District Deputy Message Dan De Zaio DDGER



To the Elks of the Central District;

As we welcome the month of April, we find ourselves approaching the close of another successful fraternal year. This is a time to reflect on the accomplishments of our lodges, recognize the dedication of our members, and ensure we finish the year strong.

I want to personally thank each lodge for your continued commitment to Elkdom. Your efforts in community service, charitable giving, and member engagement truly embody the principles of our Order. Whether it's supporting veterans, assisting local families, or hosting events that bring people together, your work does not go unnoticed.

April is also a critical time to ensure all year-end responsibilities are in order. Please continue working closely with your lodge officers and committees to complete required reports, financial filings, and audits in accordance with Grand Lodge requirements. Staying organized now will set your lodge up for a smooth transition into the new fraternal year.

I encourage all members to remain active and involved. Attend meetings, support your lodge events, and continue to bring forward new ideas that strengthen our organization. The future of the Elks depends on the energy and enthusiasm of its members—you are the driving force behind everything we accomplish. Let's make these final months count. Finish strong, support one another, and continue to uphold the values that make the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks such a remarkable organization.

As always, continue to be the best of the best!

Fraternally,
Dan De Zaio,
District Deputy Central District





Elking Around the District



Councilmember Frank Uhrin (Ward 1) thanked Piscataway Elks Lodge 2414 for its very generous \$1,875 donation to the Township's Community Outreach Advisory Board which provides residents and students of Piscataway with substance abuse educational programming including mental health support through prevention, intervention and recovery programs and initiatives in the schools and throughout the community.



Dina's Dwelling got some much-needed supplies through a Beacon Grant and members donations from the Piscataway Elks.

Scenes from the St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner at South Plainfield Lodge.



2026-2027 Officer Installations



Carteret



Edison



Piscataway

Elks Care Elks Share

DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Americanism | Hank Hart PER | tahklikid@gmail.com | 609-401-6512 |
| Army of Hope | Sal Malinconico PVP | smalinconico@aol.com | 732-690-9421 |
| Auditing | Megan Hayes PER | mah411@optonline.net | 732-986-2887 |
| CLMS | Rita Massimi PDD | joereets@yahoo.com | 908-966-3242 |
| Conventions | Karen Imperatrice PER | adele310@aol.com | 908-472-8649 |
| Drug Awareness | Jeanine Sieber PER | jaselks784@gmail.com | 732-690-8858 |
| Government Relations | Ginger Olszewski PER | golszewski@msn.com | 732-668-2392 |
| Hoop Shoot | Brian Molnar PER | bmolnar20@aol.com | 732-750-9252 |
| Internet Operations | Bill Seesselberg PER | billseess@gmail.com | 908-217-1831 |
| Lodge Activities | Betty Bellanca PDD | booper336@yahoo.com | 908-917-3166 |
| Membership | Jennifer Hammill PER | jhammillelks@gmail.com | 732-718-0167 |
| National Foundation | Paula Kopcho PDD | pjkopcho@gmail.com | 732-501-2280. |
| National Veterans Services | Dave Lewis PER | david.lewis.885@optimum.net | 908-227-8228. |
| Parades | Tina Bartko | tinabartko@gmail.com | 732-983-2699 |
| Public Relations | George Michaels PER | geomichaels@aol.com | 609-802-2182 |
| Ritual | Jami Gill PER | jpgill102178@gmail.com | 908-419-3143 |
| Scholarship | Jerry Mercado PER | Jbm.elkslodge324@gmail.com | 908-812-5905 |
| Soccer Shoot | Karen Finney | queenfinney@comcast.net | 732-514-6614 |
| Special Children | Jessica Dudik ER PER | misspris55@aol.com | 732-718-3240 |
| Training | Chris Sauer PDD | yackhunt@aol.com | 732-672-9829 |
| Youth Activities | Maureen Chapman PER | mojochapman@aol.com | 732-236-7296 |
| Youth Sport Tournament | Allen Hartland PER | allenhartland@gmail.com | 732-322-8954 |



Americanism - Hank Hart PER

Looking back at the month of March, our District's biggest Americanism event was the Citizen of the Year event, held at Woodbridge Lodge #2116. Approximately 200 people attended the event and witnessed the recognition given to each lodge's COY. Each lodge should be very proud of their recipient as well as how many people attended. A special thank you to Woodbridge in hosting the event as well as providing the volunteer kitchen crew. Thanks also to the representatives of each lodge who stopped by on Friday evening in setting up the hall. For the month of April, East Brunswick has reported they reconfigured their flagpole presentation. I'm anxious to see it when I attend VP Dan's Homecoming on April 18th. The essay entries were graded on the state level at Jamesburg on March 8th. Unfortunately our district did not place any student in the Top Three for each grade level. However, I will be reaching out to each lodge for recognition to those who garnered a Top 3 finish on the District level. The next Americanism meeting will be held on Monday April 27th at Woodbridge Lodge #2116. One of the topics to be discussed will be flag retirements with spring weather (hopefully) just around the corner. God Bless you all, keep our troops in mind.

Fraternally,

Hank Hart PER

Central District Americanism Chair



Auditing – Megan Hayes PER

Happy Spring Everyone!

Accountant for Year-End - The fiscal year has ended and your lodge should have engaged an accountant for your year-end tax filings. The lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee should have discussed with the accountant the requirements and proposed terms of the engagement. The “Employment of Accountant Contract” found in Appendix D of the Auditing and Accounting Manual (pages 119 & 120) should be completed. Inform the accountant when you will provide the books, which should be no later than April 30th and that the accountant is aware that copies of the completed tax forms should be returned to you by June 15th. This allows the information to be presented to the lodge at the last monthly meeting in June and tax forms to be uploaded to the GL Auditing and Accounting Committee for review by the August 1st deadline. Now is the time to act which will make meeting these deadlines much easier and help lodges avoid possible fines for being late.

2026-27 Budget – Work should be progressing on a budget for the 2026-27 fraternal year. Grand Lodge Statutes Section 12.070 require a budget be prepared (by the Board of Directors or Board of Trustees) for every entity of the lodge including Restricted Fund activities and presented to the lodge not later than the final regular lodge meeting in April. A budget in its original or modified form must be adopted by the lodge at the meeting or the next regular meeting. A budget is most effective when actual revenue and expenses are compared to the budgeted amounts periodically during the year, and management decisions are made to adjust operations as needed. This enables the Lodge to manage its operations to attain a profit sufficient to finance the Lodge’s fraternal and charitable objectives, to provide for growth and prevent year-end losses.

FRS Reporting – For the year-end, the preliminary FRS Report is due by the third Friday of April. If there are any changes or adjustments after the accountant completes the tax forms a final FRS report for 4/1/2025 to 3/31/26 is due no later than 8/15/2026.

Fraternally,
Megan Hayes PER
Central District Audit Chair



CLMS – Rita Massimi PDD

Secretaries, there is a lot of information that needs to be input into CLMS for the new fraternal year:

- Confirm Officers and Committee Chairs
- Name of new ER (even if it is the same as last year)
- Name of new Secretary (even if it is the same as last year)
- Confirm/Update PER listing
- Lodge Information Update

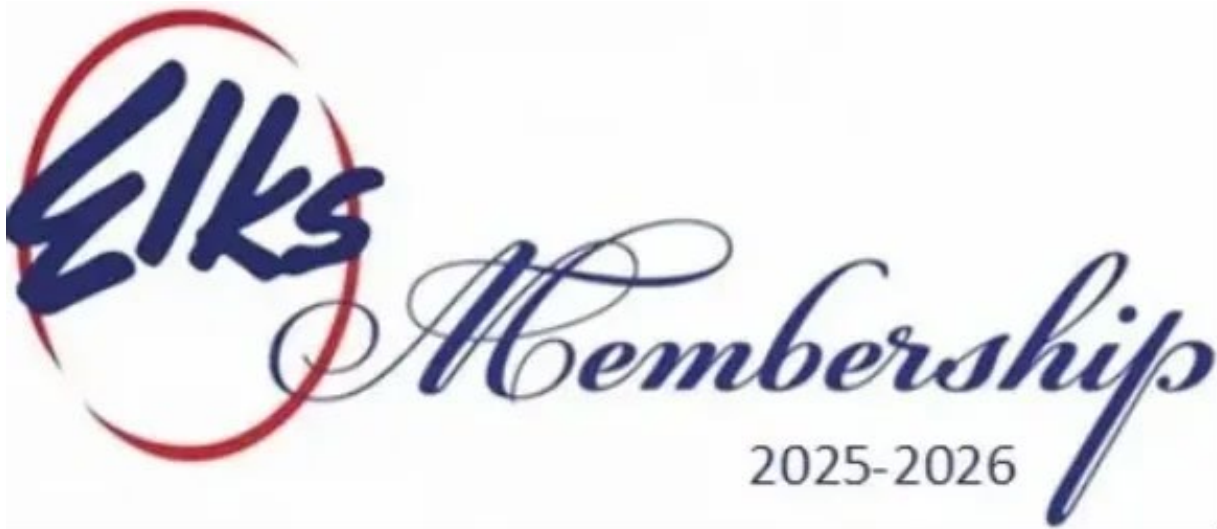
After installation, please remember to change the list of officers so the correct info shows in elks.org. If you need help with that, please send me an email.

If your lodge has an active member count that is higher than ending count, Grand Lodge will auto adjust that information later in the new fraternal year. If your active count is lower than ending count, you must submit a full member report to Grand Lodge. Instructions on how to complete this can be found in the Secretary news box labeled "Out of Balance".

Please check the secretary's box on the home page of CLMS2Web and review the year-end procedures. On April 1, 2026, your annual Grand Lodge Membership Report will be submitted automatically.

As always, please call me with any questions.

Fraternally,
Rita Massimi PDD
Central District CLMS Chair



Conventions – Karen Imperatrice PER

T-shirt orders were due on March 20th. I will reach out to all ERs when I receive them so we can make arrangements for your lodge to get your shirts.

I handed out the NJSEA 50/50 tickets at the parades meeting. If you did not get your tickets, please reach out to me. These do not have to be returned to me, they can be handed in at the Convention Center in Wildwood. If you prefer to give them to me, please reach out so we can make arrangements to meet.

Pre-registration badge forms were emailed to all lodge Convention Chairs. This badge registers you for the 2026 NJSEA Wildwood Convention and includes entry to the Member's Appreciation Party on Thursday night, from 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm at the Convention Center. Please return the completed form together with a check for \$5.00 per badge no later than May 7th. The cost of the badge will be \$8.00 in Wildwood.

Wildwood Banquet forms and Embroidered Badge forms have been mailed out to all Exalted Rulers. Please note, the banquet form must be received no later than May 1, 2026.

The only information I have right now is we will be staying at the Marriott Marquis Chicago, which is connected to the Convention Center. As soon as I have more information regarding Grand Lodge Convention, I will forward to all ERs and their Lodge Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Imperatrice PER
Central District Convention Chair



Drug Awareness – Jeanine Sieber PER

Well Spring finally has arrived and as I mentioned in the last newsletter, we need to get out in our communities to educate all, about the impact both drugs and alcohol have in our schools, workplace, families, children and communities at large. All lodge chairpersons should be exploring ways to do this, through street fairs, carnivals, school, church and any community events possible. Don't forget, there is also National Night Out, run by your local police department. It is the first Tuesday of August, every year. I recommend having crafts or games to attract children, youth and parents to your tables. Elroy also is a big draw to your table and for pictures! Instead of putting all the literature out on the table, we have been making up bags for the parents/adults and just hand it to them. For years, I would set it all out on the table and maybe one or two parents might take a pamphlet with them. Now on average, my lodge has been handing out 50-75 bags to parents. Of course we make up goody bags for the kids and youth, separately with age-appropriate information. Our district has a pop-up canopy and tablecloth available. If you want to use it for an event, please contact me ahead of time to ensure it will be available for your use. There also is a canopy and trailer that the state has. You need to contact James Dugan, Trailer/Elroy Coordinator Region One, at (cell) 732-610-2052, or (home) 732-528-5085.

We have a date for Central District DAP Walk Out on Drugs! Carteret Lodge will be sponsoring this year on Sunday, 9/20/26, park location TBA. Again, all lodge chairpersons should be actively fundraising for this event. I continue to ask all incoming Exalted Rulers to personally touch base with your lodge DAP Chair, and see how you can assist them in reaching the requested goal of donating \$1,000.00. We had 5 out of 11 lodges step up last year to reach their lodge goal. Come on Central District, let us show the rest of the state how great we truly are by reaching an \$11,000.00 donation! Right alongside Veterans and SCC, this is a very important lifesaving program!

As this year comes to an end, I would like to thank all the Central District Lodge DAP Chairpersons for all your dedication and helping our program "save one life at a time."

Yours in Elkdom,
Jeanine A. Sieber PER
Central District DAP Chair



Government Relations - Ginger Olszewski PER

As we are in a new Elk year, just a quick reminder on the general rule: report everything associated with charitable, patriotic, and civic-minded activities. This includes initiatives benefitting youth, special children, veterans, troops and the community as a whole.

Here is what should be reported:

- Time spent
- Miles traveled
- Non-cash contributions
- Actual cash contributions

Also, be sure to include all helpers in your reports, even if they are not members. Important reminder: Your Government Relations Report is due every month. If you are behind in submitting, please make it a priority to catch up and get your report in ASAP.

If you have questions on what you should be reporting, please contact me. The goal is 100% reporting. We are doing the work, let's get the credit we deserve!

Fraternally,

Ginger Olszewski, PER

Central District Government Relations Chair



Watchung Hills Elks #885 Fish Fry

Menu

- Tempura Batter Fish & Chips
- Stuffed Clams
- New England Fish Chowder
- Seafood Salad
- Coleslaw
- Desserts



WATCHUNG HILLS ELKS #885
1 Elks Trail, Warren, NJ

Friday, April 3, 2026
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

\$22.00 Adults
\$12.00 Children (UNDER 12)
Proceeds Benefit our Elks Lodge



The Stephen J. Terrible Central District SCC

Charity Ball

Honoring Area 4 Ambassadors
Nicolas Tempich & Lonnie Mattox

Saturday, April 25, 2026
7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Woodbridge Elks Lodge #2116
665 Rahway Avenue
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

Dinner & Dancing
30.00 per person
(Cash Bar)

Formal or Business Attire



For tickets or more information, contact your lodge's SCC Chairperson or
Jessica Dudik (732-718-3240) - Central District SCC Chairperson or
Dave Lindsay (732-690-4438)

A Night of Hope & Support

BLACK TIE EVENT

FOR ELAINE CONWAY PEARSON

Edison Elks Ladies Auxiliary President 2018-2026

Gather as we support our dear sister in her fight against ALS. All proceeds to go directly to Elaine's family to ease the financial burden during this incredibly difficult time.

WHEN:
Saturday
April 11, 2026
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

WHERE:
Woodbridge Elks Lodge
665 Rahway Ave
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

TICKETS: \$30 Per Person
Includes Pot Luck Dinner, Entertainment, & Cash Bar

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| BRONZE SPONSOR \$50.00 | SILVER SPONSOR \$100.00 |
| PLATINUM SPONSOR \$300.00 | GOLD SPONSOR \$150.00 |

OPEN TO ALL ELKS MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS
ORDER FORMS FOR TICKETS & SPONSORSHIP'S DUE NO LATER THEN MARCH 27, 2026
Mail to: Edison Elks Lodge #2487, Attn: Fighting Irish for Elaine
375 Old Post Road, Edison, NJ 08817

SOUTH PLAINFIELD ELKS LODGE 2298

MOTHER'S DAY FLOWER SALE

PRE-ORDER NOW!

HANGING BASKETS \$20 EACH

**ALL ORDERS DUE BY:
MAY 1, 2026**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: JENN BIRD
732-570-2459

ORDER FORM WILL BE AVAILABLE
IN THE SOCIAL QUARTERS

SPONSORED BY YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Lodge Activities – Betty Bellanca PDD

For all the lodges that submitted entries for the various contests, thank you. All the judging was completed and the winners will be announced soon. For those of you that had submissions, I have your entries and will get them to you as soon as possible.

All entries for the All-American Lodge were to be submitted to our District Deputy Dan De Zaio by April 1st so that he can get them to State Chair, Jayne McLaughlin, by April 12^t.

Wishing you all the best. God Bless our Troops, God Bless our Elks and God Bless America.

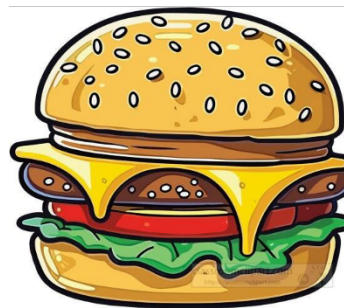
Respectfully submitted,
Betty Bellanca, PDD, ST
District Lodge Activities Chair

ACTIVITIES



South Plainfield Elks Lodge 2298
presents
LOADED SPUD FEST
Friday April 10, 2026
Race on over to get your tickets before they sell out!!
\$15 per person advance \$20 at the door 6pm -9pm
*Tickets sold at the door based upon availability.
Contact Anne Bucklew for more information. 908-578-9906
Proceeds to benefit Special Children Committee.
All members and their guests are welcome!

BUILD YOUR OWN BURGER NIGHT



Have it your way!

Grilled Sirloin Burger

Choose from a selection of various toppings.

Served with Fries!

And for Dessert, build your own Sundae

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Time: 3pm

at Piscataway Elks

\$20.00 in advance

(\$25 after April 16th)

Payment due at signup – See Bartender

Or payment can be made by Zelle or Venmo to Rita

Zelle: 908.966.3242 or Venmo: @Joereets

Proceeds benefit the lodge and its charities!



Membership – Jennifer Hammill PER

By the time this is published our final rankings for the country will be in. At the time of this writing we have a +753 membership gain and are sitting in 2nd place. I am so proud of all the hard work that you have put into recruiting new members and working on bringing others back into the fold. So many hours spent preparing candidates for initiation and calls made to bring other members back. The Elk year may be done but our work in membership has just begun.

We left on the table too many Lifetime Members. New Jersey had 158 members with over 25 years, including 50 life members. Richard Gathen published the list of lodges and three of them are in our district. Please don't give up on them, reach out and see what is going on with these members. Think about utilizing the standing relief committee to cover their dues and bring them back. They have spent too many years working for our order to be forgotten and left behind.

For the next 60 days we can reinstate dropped members without having to pay the reinstatement fee. New Jersey still has 1,602 delinquents and 598 candidates waiting to come in.

Please remember that the digital membership card is available to all members in good standing. Bartenders are to accept this digital card as proof of membership when the physical card is not available. When presented, the digital card will have the date on the bottom right of the card. Displaying the same date as it is being requested. Do not accept a screen shot of the card.

The new Elk year has begun and let's hit the ground running.

Fraternally Yours,
Jennifer Hammill PER
Central District Membership Chair



Parades – Tina Bartko

The June parade is quickly approaching, and we are excited to celebrate this year's theme,

New Jersey Elks: A Beacon of Hope,

highlighting the compassion, service, and community spirit that define our organization. As we prepare for this special event, we kindly remind everyone to submit all required forms online by April 15th if you have not already done so, to ensure smooth coordination and participation. Additionally, please share any updates regarding the appointment of a new Parades Lodge Chairperson, as we want to keep everyone informed and connected during the planning process. Wildwood will be here before you know it!

Please don't forget to submit any parade pictures that you take so I can include it in the newsletter. This includes Memorial Day, Convention, Labor Day etc. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. tinabartko@gmail.com, 732-983-2699

Fraternally,
Tina Bartko
Central District Parades Chair



Public Relations – George Michaels PER

Welcome to the new and returning Public Relations lodge chairs. We are going to make this a fruitful Elk year.

Some hints for the new chairs, and reminders for the returning chairs and for all of us.

REMEMBER to start your publicity campaigns early, as soon as an activity is set.

REMEMBER, as soon as your event is set, send the event to the district calendar. In fact, check the district calendar first to avoid conflicts when possible.

REMEMBER to make use of social media. For some color and variety, there are shareables on Elks.org available for us. Use them. Use posters, photos, and videos to get attention.

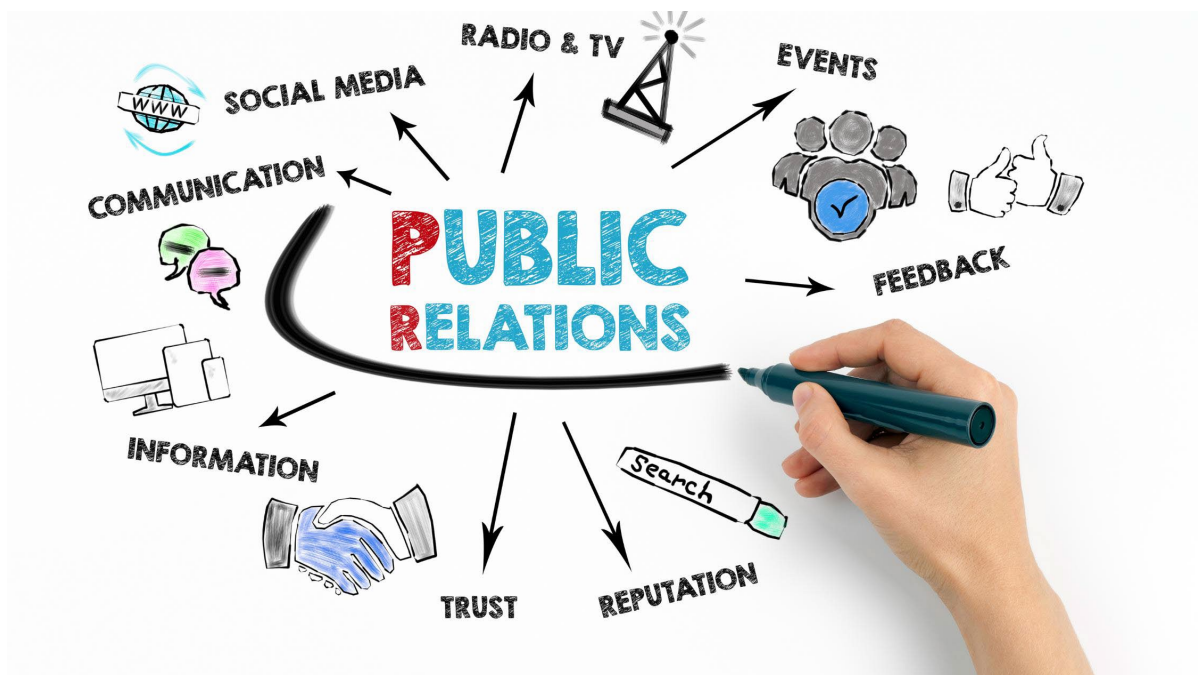
REMEMBER, after your charitable event, get the news out letting the world know what we do. Send releases to our district newsletter, to the state newsletter, and to Elks Magazine. You've done the work, get the credit.

We are all Public Relations specialists, spreading the word about our good work. Please contact me for help with getting your story into the various media. Also, if you have any questions or comments, have any Public Relations and Marketing needs, or require additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Fraternally,

George Michaels PER

Central District Public Relations Chair



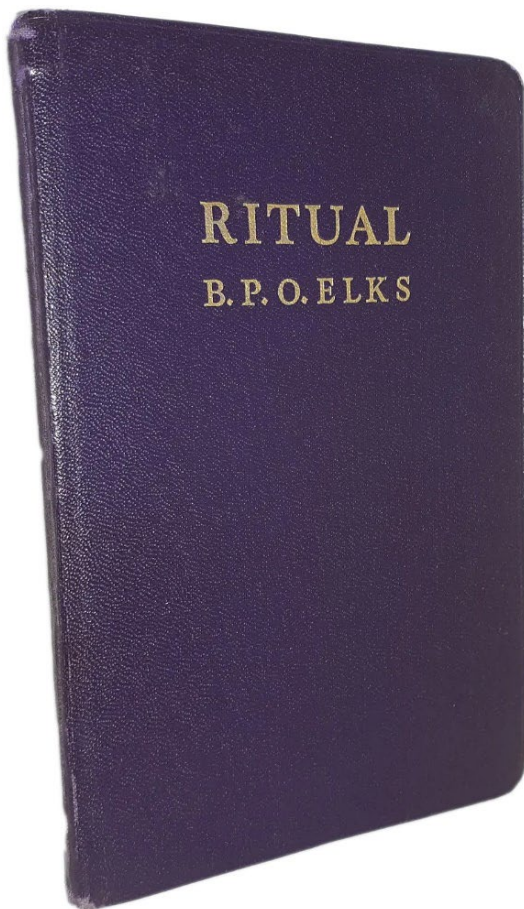
Ritual - Jami Gill PER

With our Installations of Officers now underway, I strongly encourage everyone to schedule a brief practice session in advance. Since these installations are open to Elks guests, they present a great opportunity to showcase our ritual work and leave a strong, positive impression. Let's put our best foot forward—you never know, we may inspire some of our guests to become new members!

For all new and returning officers for the 2026–2027 fraternal year, please take time to review your parts in the Ritual—whether you plan to memorize them or read them. This will help ensure that when your lodge conducts an initiation, you are comfortable with your role and able to deliver it smoothly and confidently.

As a reminder, the State Ritual Contest will take place in Long Branch on April 26th. Piscataway is scheduled to perform at 11:00 AM. If your schedule allows, please come out and show your support. We're confident Piscataway will make the Central District proud.

Fraternally,
Jami Gill, PER
Central District Ritual Chair



Soccer Shoot – Karen Finney

Well, our 2026 Soccer Season has sadly come to an end. I would like to thank all the families that traveled to York, PA the weekend of March 6th to 8th to have their children, our State Champions, compete in the final soccer tournament of the year, The Mid-Atlantic Soccer Tournament!!! It was a fantastic end to a great season. As we all arrived in York, PA on Friday night, the children and their families were greeted with a pizza party along with a DJ. Every State winner received a Elks Soccer State Champion warm up, with their names embroidered on them and signed soccer balls, which were to be raffled off at the banquet which followed the competition on Saturday night. I must say that the children were not the only ones to have a great time, I know that Michael and I had a really great time as well. We were really impressed to watch the children get friendly with the other kids in their age group and hang out and swap phone numbers with each other. To them it wasn't just about a competition, it was about the start of new friendships. But I digress....

The Winners are.....

U 10 Girls – 1st Place – Morgan Villanueva - Piscataway

U 10 Boys – 3rd Place - Shair Singh Bhela – Woodbridge (there was a 3 way tie for 1st resulting in a tie breaker)

U 16 Girl – 2nd Place by just 1 point – Meagan Martineau - Piscataway

U 16 Boy – 2nd Place by just 1 point – Ved Parekh – Colonia

Congratulations to our New Jersey State Champions!!!!

As for the coveted Highest Scoring State award, New Jersey took 2nd place. We were only 29 points shy of bringing it home again. There is always next year!!!!

Thank you all for a fantastic year, and I can't wait to see what next year will bring! Our last district meeting was held on March 30th at Carteret Lodge in conjunction with YAC and Parades.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Finney

District Chair, Soccer



Special Children Committee - Jessica Dudik PER

Tickets for the 2026 Stephen J. Terrible Charity Ball are still on sale. The Ball will be held on Saturday, April 25th at Woodbridge Lodge from 7:00 PM through 11:00 PM. The cost is \$30.00 per person and the dress is formal or business attire. Please see your lodge SCC chair for tickets. This is a great night to come out and celebrate our Area 4 Ambassador Nicholas Tempish.

Camp Moore will be having an open house on Saturday, May 9th from 12 PM to 3 PM. Any Elk member who has never been to the camp is encouraged to go and experience what our camp offers. Please contact your SCC chair to RSVP.

Reminders...

Ambassador Applications for 26-27 are now being accepted and are due back no later than May 1. Also It is now time to submit applications for the Special Children's Scholarship Awards, Applications have been given to lodge SCC chairs and should be forwarded to school counselors. The deadline for submission is April 10, 2026.

Please note our next Committee meeting will be on Monday, April 20th at Woodbridge Lodge.

Events happening in our District...

Carteret: Neil Diamond and Elton John Impersonators on Friday, May 8th.

Colonia: Clothing Drive, Clothing Drop off on Sun April 12th 2-5pm, Monday-Wednesday April 13-15th 3:30-7pm

Piscataway: Harry Newton Memorial Golf Outing May 8th

South Plainfield: Loaded Spud Fest April 10th

Woodbridge: Baked Potato Night May 8th, Breakfast April 12th, Murder Mystery Dinner May 16th

And as always, thanks to everyone for their continued support.

After all, it's all for the kids.

Fraternally,

Jessica Dudik PER

Central District SCC Chair



Training - Christine Sauer PDD

Happy April to you all!

Thank you to those who attended my District meeting on Training. There was a great representation of all our lodges in the district. A tremendous shout out goes to PER Megan Hayes and PER Jen Hammill who were gracious to attend and give superb presentations on Business Practices and Membership. Thank you, VP Dan Pencak for attending as well. All in all, it was a very informative night. In that we are entering a new fiscal year and many will be new to running or attending a Lodge meeting, it's a good time to review the "dos and don'ts" of a Lodge meeting. Decorum is an important part of Elk life. The Lodge meeting is certainly a place where decorum should take place. The officers are hardworking, committee chairs work relentlessly on their charities and functions and hopefully new members attend the lodge meeting. This is all the more reason to carry the lodge meeting in a professional manner. The opening and closing of a lodge meeting should be conducted with respect and dignity at all times. The opening sets the tone for the meeting. There should not be any "horseplay", foul language or gestures at any time during a lodge meeting. When a member/committee person wants to address the Exalted Ruler or lodge, they should wait to be recognized, stand up and give a concise summation of what they want to say or what their motion is.

The Exalted Ruler is the impartial master of ceremony and should be fair and firm when running the meeting and deal with inappropriate behavior if it should arise. Remember to show pride and respect to our officers and members at all times.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter and Passover.

Fraternally,
Christine Sauer PDD
Central District Training Chair



Youth Activities – Maureen Chapman PER

It's that time of year to start thinking about your Batters Up program. Piscataway is holding their Batters Up on Saturday, May 2nd at Piscataway Little League Field. Metuchen is holding their Batters Up on Sunday, June 14th. The Central District Batters Up is scheduled for Saturday, June 20th. Please let me know if any other lodges are planning to hold their own Batters Up contest. The State Batters Up is tentatively scheduled for August 1st with more details to follow.

Don't forget to save the date for the State Youth Activities Committee Elk-A-Thon on May 30th at 1pm at Old Bridge Lodge. We are still looking for each district to provide a team of six Elks to participate in six games – Elks Trivia, 11 O'clock Toast Mad Lib, 3 ball Pong, State Attire Scramble, Name that Elk & Dunk A Dignitary. I would like to get a team together for our district. I'm asking all members of the Central District that are interested in participating in our 1st State Elk-A-Thon to please contact me as soon as possible at 732-236-7296 or mojochapman@aol.com. Even though we need six members to be on the team, we need our entire district to support them at this fun event. Please consider coming out for a good time with your fellow Elks. This should be a fun event, and it would be great to see our district take home the trophy.

If you're doing other things at your lodge for Youth Activities, please let me know so I can report to the State Youth Activities Chair. I want to give a shout out to Metuchen lodge who held the Karen Minutella Reading Program on March 6th to 170 third graders. They also honored five students of the month for the current school year. They are also providing two \$1,000.00 scholarships to graduating seniors from Metuchen HS. Way to go Metuchen on promoting the Youth Activity Programs!

Fraternally,

Maureen Chapman PER

Central District Youth Activities Chair



Youth Sports Tournament – Allen Hartland PER

We recently had our first Zoom meeting. We are keeping the same locations for each contest which will be held on Monday June 21st. Hopefully this will help with different school districts closing dates. This year we are going to stagger starting times so the athletes in each contest will finish at the same time and will be able to attend the awards ceremony. Negotiations are ongoing for the ceremony's location. There still is a \$100 donation requested from each lodge that will allow the athletes to attend free of charge and the venues can be paid. Please send donations to me (I will send out where at a later date); this way I can keep up with Central Distinct lodges.

Fraternally,
Allen Hartland PER
Central District Youth Sports Tournament Chair



District Lodge Information

Carteret #2235

233 Roosevelt Ave.
732-541-2880
Meetings 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:30 pm
ER Lars Astrom, Secy. Patricia Golino

Colonia #2282

855 Middlesex Tpke.
732-382-2282
Meetings 3rd Thursdays 7 pm
ER Jessica Dudik, Secy. Eileen Parks

East Brunswick #2370

21-B Oakmont Ave.
732-821-9527
Meetings 1st & 3rd Thursdays 7:30 pm
ER Timothy Sexton, Secy Joan Scaduto

Edison #2487

375 Old Post Rd.
732-985-2487
Meetings 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:30 pm
ER Tim Langan, Secy Aimee Malave

Metuchen #1914

87 Middlesex Ave. Rt. 27.
732-494-3557
Meetings 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 7:30pm
ER Michael Peer, Secy. Sharon Grice

New Brunswick #324

40 Livingston Ave.
732-249-3420
Meetings 1st & 3rd Thursdays 7:30 pm
ER William Negvesky, Secy. Elizabeth Bonura

Piscataway #2414

450 River Road
732-356-9827
Meetings 1st & 3rd Thursdays 8 pm
ER Peter Namen, Secy Rita Massimi PDD

South Amboy #784

601 Washington Ave.
732-727-7170
Meetings 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 7:30 pm
ER John Leo, Secy. Mary Patricia Kall

South Plainfield #2298

1254 New Market Ave.
908-668-9750
Meetings 1st & 3rd Thursdays 7:30 pm
ER Tom Perry, Secy. Sandi Smith

Watchung Hills #885

1 Elks Trail
908-668-9727
Meetings 1st & 3rd Thursdays 7:30 pm
ER Susan Dougherty, Secy. Danny Larsen PDD

Woodbridge #2116

665 Rahway Ave.
732-634-2116
Meetings 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 7:30 pm
ER Jamie M. Chick, Secy. Paula Kopcho PDD

Antler Lodge#20

Sponsoring Lodge
Carteret #2235
233 Roosevelt Ave. 732-541-2880
Advisor Terri Kelly 732-904-8275

Antler Lodge #30

Sponsoring Lodge
South Plainfield #2298
1254 New Brunswick Ave. 908-668-9750



Antler Lodge#28

Sponsoring Lodge
New Brunswick #324
40 Livingston Ave. 732-545-0658
Advisor Elsie Isaacson 908-917-2778

Antler Lodge #45

Sponsoring Lodge
South Amboy #784
601 Washington Ave. 732-727-7170