

Central District News

New Jersey Elks/February 2026/Volume 22, Issue 9



Even with all the cold and snowflakes, January has been a busy month. The State Soccer Shoot was held on January 9th and the contestants from the Central District did great. Once again, the Central District brought home the District Trophy for the Highest Scoring District. Congratulations to all the winners and best of luck at the Mid-Atlantic Soccer Shoot. I must also acknowledge the crew from the Central District-it was apparent how important your involvement was in making the shoot run smoothly. Thank you all.

The District Hoop Shoot was held on January 11th and there were many impressive shooters. The State Hoop Shoot will be held on February 15th in South Plainfield. Good luck to all our Central District contestants.

The “Shave the Beard” Fundraiser for Camp Moore on January 17th was a great success! Huge thanks need to go to PER Kevin Krasnansky from Piscataway Lodge for volunteering to have his 3+ year old beard as well as his hair shaved off for charity. A few lucky bidders were able to complete the task. Our own SCC Chair Jessica bid highest and shaved his head. I must also thank our District Advisor Pete Smith for organizing this terrific event.

My second Vice-President meeting was held at Edison Lodge on January 27th. Thank you to all the District Chairs for reporting about the amazing things we do in our District. Listening to all these reports it is easy to see why the Central District is the Shining Star of the State. I must also express my gratitude to Rich Poole and Don Tonachio, the two candidates for New Jersey Elks State President who came and spoke about their vision for our State organization. Also speaking was Alan Hartland from New Brunswick lodge, our next Vice-President for the Central District who is running unopposed. Congratulations Alan and I look forward to working with you in the coming months.

Coming up is the Peer Leadership Conference the weekend of February 6th to 8th. What an outstanding program this is. It teaches high school students life skills that they will have forever. It covers topics like dealing with mental health, bullying, drug prevention, suicide prevention, resiliency, and more. This is Elkdom at its best! I must acknowledge our District Chair Jeanine Sieber for all her years of dedication in making this program such a success.

The Officers of Piscataway Lodge will be representing the Central District in the State Ritual Competition at Long Branch Lodge on Sunday, February 22th at 11:00am. Friendly faces are always helpful so come down and show your support and help keep the ritual alive in New Jersey!

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

INSIDE THE DISTRICT

Vice President Message
District Deputy Message
Elking Around the District
District Chairpersons
Chairperson Messages
Lodges in the District
ERs and Secretaries
Antler Lodges

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



Please send articles and events to CJElksCalendar@gmail.com

District Deputy Message Dan De Zaio DDGER



To the Elks of the Central District;

February is here, and we are coming close to the end of our fiscal year. This month includes nominations and elections of officers. As a reminder, nominations should be taken at the first meeting followed by elections at the second meeting.

I have received installation dates from many of our lodges, which must occur between March 15th and April 15th. I will make every effort to attend as many installations as possible and to personally conduct those I am able to attend. Due to the number of lodges and the close scheduling of several installations on the same dates, I have reached out to Past District Deputies who have graciously offered to assist with installations where I am unable to be present. I extend my sincere appreciation to PDDs Christine, Dennis, Frank, and Betty, as well as PSDGER Francis, for their continued support and willingness to assist.

February is one of the busiest months of our Elk year. Important upcoming events include Peer Leadership on February 6th and 7th at the Ocean Place Hotel in Long Branch and Ritual on February 22nd at the Long Branch Elks. Central District, please try your best to attend Ritual to show your support for our beloved Piscataway Lodge as they perform our Elks Ritual.

At my DD Clinic in January I mentioned that I would be following up on the safety items that need to be addressed in our lodges based on my pre-visits. Please do your best to stay on top of these items. Safety is extremely important, and I know you will handle it accordingly.

As always, continue to be “THE BEST OF THE BEST.”

Fraternally,
Dan De Zaio,
District Deputy Central District



Happy Presidents Day



Elking Around the District





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	jgill102178@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

As we enter the shortest month of the year, February, our lodges are gearing up for March's Citizen of the Year Dinner to be held at Woodbridge Lodge #2116.

It was a busy start to 2026, with the lodges all involved in staying active on this wonderful committee. Carteret had 20 members donate \$5.00 for the veterans at the Menlo Park home. This was used for Bingo games.

Members of the committee also reviewed 7 Americanism essays.

Colonia was busy fundraising at the bar selling \$3 snowflakes.

East Brunswick received 6 essays through the help of East Brunswick's Education Association, covering 5th, 6th and 8th grade and judged them.

New Brunswick 18 essays to be judged!

Piscataway had one essay in which was brought to the district meeting for judging.

South Plainfield had 77 essays submitted and chose 8 for consideration.

Solar powered lights were installed on the flagpole.

Watchung Hills had their annual Veterans Holiday Dinner with 70 veterans in attendance.

Woodbridge received 57 essays which were then vetted. The lodge also decided on who their Citizen of the Year will be recognized at March's dinner.

On the District level, a meeting took place at Woodbridge on January 19th. All essays vetted by the lodges were brought to the meeting to see which ones should be considered to be moved forward.

The COY dinner's menu was decided upon as well as every lodge receiving their tickets as well as the state raffle tickets.

Fraternally,

Hank Hart PER

Central District Americanism Chair



Auditing – Megan Hayes PER

Contracting an Accountant Now for Year-End - The fiscal year-end is still months away but engaging your lodge accountant now for your year-end tax filings is a good idea. We all know time flies, so it's definitely not too soon. The lodge Auditing and Accounting committee should discuss with prospective accountants 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) needs to be completed. Make certain you 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.

It may seem like a long way off but by starting now it will make meeting all deadlines much easier and help lodges avoid any fines for being late.

FRS Reporting - Just a reminder, the monthly FRS Report is due by the third Friday of every month. February deadline is Friday, February 20, 2026.

Fraternaly,
Megan Hayes PER
Central District Audit Chair



CLMS – Rita Massimi PDD

Secretaries, we're coming to the end of the fraternal year and you should again reach out to your lapsed members asking them to pay their dues. It's also a good idea to ask if they need our help.

Also, per Grand Lodge Statute 14.160, any time during the month of February each year, the Secretary shall give notice informing the member that they may be dropped if dues are not paid within 30 days of mailing the notice. You must post a list of all members given notice on the Lodge bulletin board and report the posting of the list at the next Lodge meeting. **Please read the entire statute to ensure compliance.** Effective date for dropping the member shall be no later than March 31st. Members cannot be dropped on April 1st with an effective date of March 31st since that will create an out of balance issue.

As always, please contact me for any issues or questions - I'm here to help.

Fraternally,
Rita Massimi PDD
Central District CLMS Chair



Conventions – Karen Imperatrice PER

Sample shirts of the NJ State T-shirt were distributed at Fall Conference. Please make sure your order is in no later than March 20, 2026. Address is on the order form as well as the email address. I will reach out to all ERs when I receive them so we can make arrangements for your lodge to get your shirts. This will save the shipping cost.

The dates for this year's conventions are as follows:

Wildwood State Convention: June 5th-7th, 2026

Grand Lodge Convention, Chicago, IL : July 5th-8th, 2026

Fall Conference, Long Branch, NJ: Nov 13th-15th, 2026

As soon as I have more information regarding the Wildwood Convention and Grand Lodge Convention I will forward to all ERs and their lodge Secretary. I will be reaching out to all lodge secretaries after the February elections for the names of new Exalted Ruler for each lodge.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Imperatrice PER
Central District Convention Chair



Drug Awareness – Jeanine Sieber PER

The Peer Leadership Conference (2/6- 8/26) and Pathways to Leadership Day Conference (2/5/26) are finally here. Most of our lodges are sending students this year. Next year we have to do better than this, with 100% of our lodges sending at least one student. If anyone is interested in visiting on Saturday, for safety and security purposes, registration is now required. If you do not preregister, you will unfortunately be sent away. This goes for everyone, no exceptions! Questions or for the registration form, please email: njelksconference@gmail.com.

The student/parent orientation was held on January 18 at Edison Lodge. There were 30 students, 23 parents in attendance and 7 Elks. Special thanks to Kelly Tartarka, Colonia DAP Lodge Chair, for presenting to the students and parents. She did a fabulous Job! Also for bringing a past Peer Leadership participant to come and speak. Shout out to Nick Pelegrino, Edison DAP Lodge Chair, for hosting the event and providing refreshments.

This year Carteret has agreed to sponsor the Walk Out on Drugs in the fall, date TBA. All lodge chairpersons should already be planning fundraisers for their contributions to the Walk Out. Again we have to do better as a district, in contributing to the Walk Out.

I am pleased to report that all eleven lodges are having Chili Cook-Offs! The District Cook=Off will be at Colonia Lodge, Saturday, January 31st, from 4-6pm. Then the State DAP Cook Off will be at Woodbridge Lodge, Sunday, February 15th at 2pm. There is a \$5 admission fee, and it gets you hot dogs, chili tasting and a voting ticket. Music and fun to enjoy! Please come out and support your lodge competitors!

At our last district meeting we picked the winners for the Poster, Essay and Video Contests. This will be the first year that we will be submitting a video entry. Thank you to Carteret, East Brunswick, Edison, and South Amboy for entries. They will now be voted for on the state level.

We had one Enrique Camarena Award nomination made by South Amboy but was not chosen.

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



Government Relations - Ginger Olszewski PER

Just a reminder that your Government Relations Report should be submitted every month. If you are behind in submitting your report please do not wait until the last minute. The end of the Elk year is coming up quickly. Please don't wait till the last minute.

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!

Fraternally,
Ginger Olszewski, PER
Central District Government Relations Chair



Hoop Shoot – Brian Molnar PER

On January 11th the Central District Hoop Shoot was held at the Woodbridge Community Center. 21 participants competed to earn a spot at the State Hoop Shoot on February 15th. Congratulations to all who will move on to the State competition. Thank you to all the volunteers who showed up to make this event a success. It could not have been done without each and every one of you.

I would also like to thank all the dignitaries that took time out of their busy schedules to attend. PSDGER Francis J. Decibus, Past State President Peter Smith, DDGER Dan DeZaio, Central District VP Dan Pencak and State Hoop Shoot Chair Robert Sorenson. Thank you for your support.

Fraternaly yours,
Brian Molnar PER
Central District Hoop Shoot Director



Lodge Activities – Betty Bellanca PDD

The new year is now a month old and now hopefully you have submitted your contest forms to me. Every lodge should have performed the Memorial Service on the first Sunday in December. This form should have been submitted to me by February 3rd. If you haven't yet done so, please send them out ASAP and I'll see if I can get them in on time.

Remember to send along any documents and photos to commemorate the event.

Also due on February 3rd was the Lodge Bulletin contest. Most lodges send out a bulletin via email to their membership. Take some samples and submit them along with the contest form to me.

Hoping to see many of our Lodges participate in these contests.

And remember—when planning an activity or event, in addition to posting the details on Facebook, please send the details (including a flyer if available) to CJElksCalendar@gmail.com to be included in the district calendar.



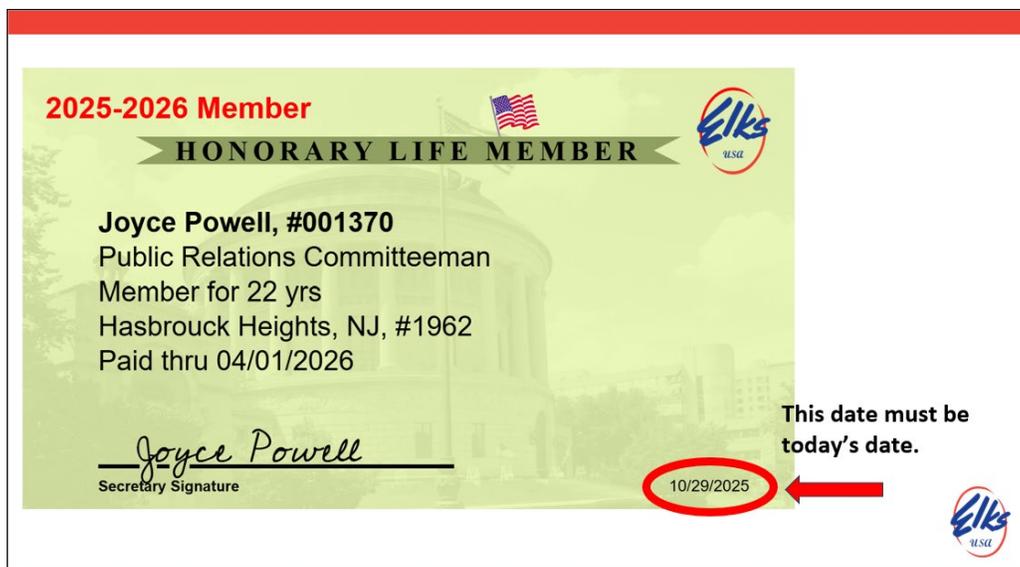
ACTIVITIES

Membership – Jennifer Hammill PER

I would like to start off by congratulating you on your work to decrease our delinquency rate. We went from 7% to 6.6%. Our gain went from 4,054 to 4,248! These numbers are promising but we need to continue to try and bring down our delinquency rate. I will be reaching out to lodges that have the highest rates to see how we can bring them down. Getting new members is great but we cannot forget about the Elks who have been here for years and bring tremendous value to our lodges. Remember Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken. Do the work to reach out and make sure they are OK and see how you can help bring them back into the lodge. Isn't that what you would want to be done for you?

Another item I would like to discuss is digital membership cards. Be sure to talk to your bartenders and let them know they ARE acceptable to use when traveling if you forgot to bring your membership card. When a member goes to the Grand Lodge website in front of you they will be able to pull up their current valid membership card. This card will display the current date when it was downloaded. This ensures the person requesting to see the digital card that the member is in good standing as of that day. Please do not confuse a photo of the digital card which could have been pulled another day and a screen shot taken so as to look as if it was current. If a member is suspended the digital card will reflect that.

Here is an example of what the digital card looks like.



Thank you,

God Bless America and God Bless our troops.

Jennifer Hammill PER

Central District Membership Chair

National Foundation -Paula Kopcho PDD

Thank you to all our lodges of the Central District – we are in the final Quarter of the Elk year -- with a District average of \$6.88 per member, and a total of \$18,855 in donations. Please remember all donations have to be in by March 31st.

Don't forget to file your grant reports on time. Filing on time means eligibility for next year, so keep up with the paperwork.

Two things: biggest heart campaign is ongoing through February. Selling hearts helps increase your donations to ENF. Don't forget to recognize your donors.

Also, you have received 50/50 tickets to sell. They are \$5.00 each and each lodge has received 10 tickets to start. This is for a Gift Card Tricky Tray that goes off at the annual ENF Cocktail Party on March 8th at 4 pm. The State ENF Committee is asking each lodge for a \$50.00 gift card to raffle off. Please let me know if your lodge is willing to donate.

Thank you for all you do!

Fraternally,
Paula J Kopcho, PDD
ENF District Chair



National Veterans Services – Dave Lewis PER

After taking a month off from meetings our first meeting of the year will be held at Piscataway lodge on February 12th. We had quite an exceptional year in 2025 and I'm hoping to have another in 2026.

Our last meeting in December was our annual Christmas get together, and I wanted to send out a big thank you to the New Brunswick lodge for a great time had by all.

I'd also like to thank all those who were able to come out and support our last fund raiser at the Dunellen Hotel on Dec 30th. It was a packed house.

We are starting to see more Welcome Home deliveries in the upcoming year. We've had three in the past two weeks, with another one pending in the next few days.

We have events planned for this year including picnics planned for both Menlo Park and Lyons VA Hospitals.

Let's just hope for a good year and an end to this cold spell of weather we've been going through. I will try to keep everyone updated as the year progresses.

Thank You for all your support.

Thank You

David Lewis

Central District Veterans Chair



Parades – Tina Bartko

January was a busy month for the State Parades Committee. We celebrated the holidays with a little get together and a brief meeting on January 3rd at the Trenton lodge. We then gathered again on January 19th at South Amboy lodge to discuss the Wildwood Reunion Parade. Raffle Tickets for the State Parades Fundraiser were handed out along with the Wildwood Parade paper and digital forms to be handed out to the lodges.

Our Central District Parade meeting will be held on Monday, February 9th, at Edison Lodge #2487. Also, we are still looking for a few good parade marshals. Our theme is:

New Jersey Elks, A Beacon of Hope.

Let's get ready for the best parade ever!

Fraternally,
Tina Bartko
Central District Parades Chair



Public Relations – George Michaels PER

This time of year, the weather is bitter cold, but the feelings are warm within our lodges. Let's keep it hot by shouting out for Elkdom to one and all.

Let the district know what you are doing by being sure to send your events for posting in the district calendar. Of course, check the calendar when scheduling events so as to avoid conflicts as much as possible.

Post your events on social media. This helps disseminate the information to a wider and more varied audience, thereby increasing attendance. While we are on social media, consider the electronics Elks bulletin board. This will get your notices out to a statewide audience and will also get you the services of a commercial artist for your flyers at no additional cost. For information on obtaining the bulletin board, contact me.

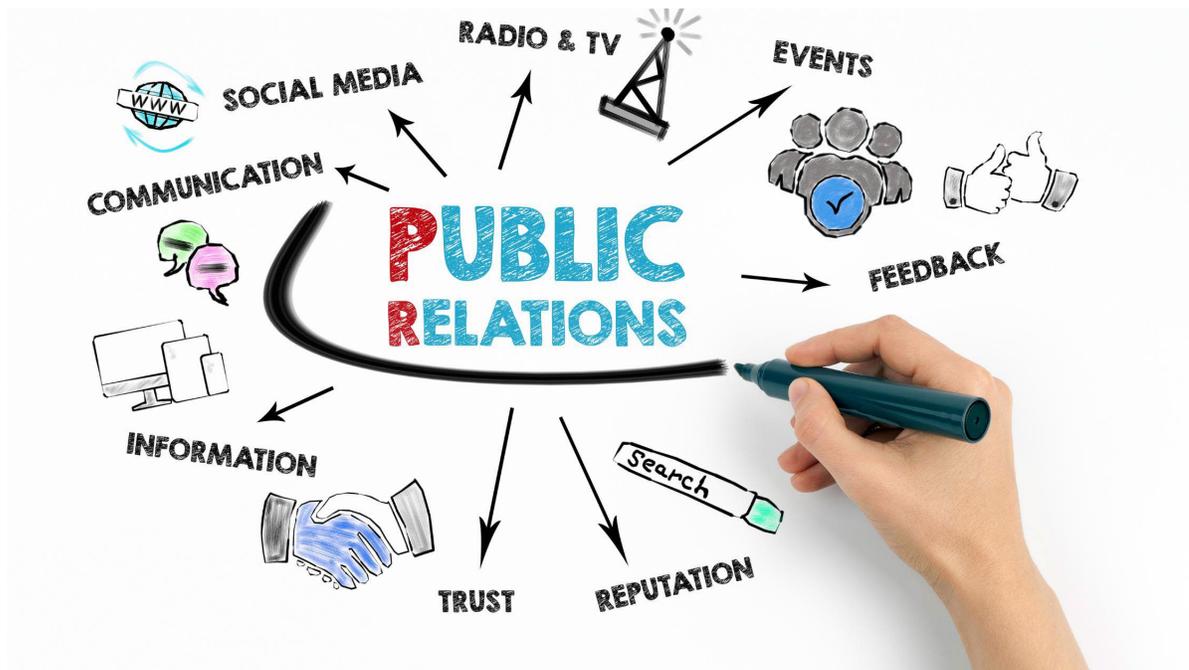
Take plenty of pictures at the event, and send them to the various Elks publications, and especially social media. This spreads the word as to what we are doing and encourages future attendance at the events. However, when taking pictures, avoid having alcoholic beverages in the photos.

We are all Public Relations specialists, spreading the word of our good work. If you have any questions or comments, or have any Public Relations and Marketing needs, or require additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Fraternally,

George Michaels PER

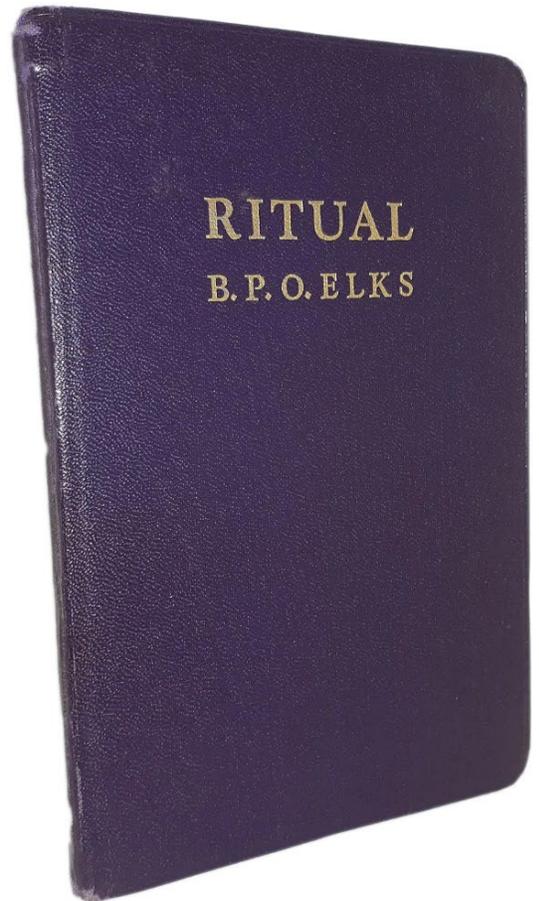
Central District Public Relations Chair



Ritual - Jami Gill PER

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Piscataway for performing the Ritual for the District Deputy. Your dedication and professionalism are truly appreciated. It is with great pleasure that I announce Piscataway was voted to perform the Ritual at the State Competition in Long Branch on Sunday, February 22, at 11:00 a.m. I know the Central District will be fully supportive of their efforts, and I am confident that Piscataway will represent our district with pride and distinction.

Fraternally,
Jami Gill, PER
Central District Ritual Chair



Scholarship – Jerry Mercado PER

The Central District is pleased to share the following updates on Elks scholarship programs and upcoming opportunities for our members and their families.

Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student (MVS) Contest

Lodge-level judging for the Most Valuable Student Contest was completed on December 22, 2025, with 43 applicants advancing to District judging. We thank all Lodge Scholarship Chairs throughout the Central District for their dedication and timely completion of this important process.

District judging concluded on January 13, 2026. The Central District extends its appreciation to the Scholarship Chairs who volunteered their time to judge and score the applications: District Judges: Debbie Boyle, Christina Buchek, and Tony Hayeck.

The State Judging Phase will take place February 6–23, 2026.

Elks National Foundation Legacy Awards

The ENF Legacy Awards provides \$4,000 scholarships (\$1,000 per year for four years) to the children, grandchildren, step-children, and step-grandchildren of Elks members.

New Jersey families will be eligible for at least 10 awards from a total of 252 national awards. Applications are available online. This scholarship opened on September 1, 2025, and must be submitted by February 2, 2026.

New Jersey Elks Vocational Scholarship

The New Jersey Elks Vocational Scholarship Program awards \$1,000 one-time scholarships to students pursuing vocational or technical education. Two scholarships (one male and one female) are awarded in each of New Jersey's twelve Elks Districts, totaling \$24,000 in annual awards statewide.

Eligible applicants include graduating high school seniors or individuals within one year of earning a high school diploma or G.E.D. who plan to attend, or are attending, a post-secondary institution to earn a vocational or technical certificate or credential. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and New Jersey residents at the time of application.

New Jersey Elks Family Scholarship

The New Jersey Elks Family Scholarship awards \$900 scholarships to children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren (including step-relations) of New Jersey Elks.

Eligible applicants include high school seniors and college freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. Students are encouraged to apply each year they are eligible. The application period runs April 15 through June 30 annually.

Applications for the 2026 contest will be available online beginning April 15, 2026, and must be submitted by June 30, 2026

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry B. Mercado, PER
Central District Scholarship Chair
New Brunswick Lodge #324



Soccer Shoot – Karen Finney

Happy February and a Very Happy Valentine's Day for all you love birds out there!!! As promised, we did kick off the New Year with a great State Soccer Competition! I would like to thank those that came down to Manasquan Field House on January 10th to help with our State Shoot. I am excited to tell you that we have four first place winners going to York, PA the weekend of March 6th to March 8th !

In total, we had eight winners place this year!

They are as follows:

U-8 Girl 3rd place – Avira Karthikeyan - Metuchen U-8 Boys – 0

U-10 Girl 1st place – Morgan Villanueva – Piscataway

U-10 Boy 1st place Shair Singh Bhela – Woodbridge

U-12 Girl – 0 U-12 Boy 3rd place – Kamran Amin – Metuchen

U-14 Girl 2nd place – Mia DeSantis – Piscataway

U-14 Boy 3rdplace – Ethan Villanueva –Piscataway

U-16 Girl 1st place – Meagan Martineau – Piscataway

U-16 Boy 1st place – Ved Parekh – Colonia

Because of all the hard work that these children put in, the Central District took home the State District Trophy for the highest score of the day with a total of 381 points. This trophy will be making its way around the district once it is engraved.

All winners are excited for this next step in the competition and are practicing day and night getting ready for their chance to take on the winners from Kentucky, Maryland, Delaware & the District of Columbia along with Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Let's all wish them luck!!!

With all that being said, let us not forget about the Mid-Atlantic Ad Journals, the deadline for ads along with boosters needed to be sent to Maureen Chapman by January 28, 2026. Thank you to all that sent them in. If you would like to place an ad past this due date, please reach out to Maureen Chapman as soon as possible. She can be reached at (732) 236-7296.

Our next district meeting will be held in conjunction with the Youth Activities and Parades Committee on February 9th at Edison Lodge, hospitality to begin at 7:00 with meeting at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Finney
District Chair, Soccer



Special Children Committee, Jessica Dudik PER

Almost all Calendars for January thru June 2026, have been sold and handed back in. Thank you all for getting those sold in a timely manner.

With the Help of Pete Smith and Kevin Krasnansky the committee hosted a very successful event at Union Lodge. A BIG thanks to Kevin from Piscataway Lodge for letting us cut his beard and hair for a great cause. The event raised over \$5000 for a Teddy Bear Donation at Camp Moore in Memory of Stephen J. Terrible and in Honor of Francis J. Decibus.

Elks Camp Moore is now taking requests for camp visits. Please make sure you read ALL of the guidelines before filling out the form. And please remember these guidelines are in place to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone at the camp.

Please note our next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, February 24th, 2026 at Metuchen Lodge.

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

February is a month that all lodges should start, (if they haven't already), assessing what they should concentrate on in regards to wrapping up for the year. The fiscal year end for our organization is March 31st. Initiations, (clearing all waiting candidates from the roster), bringing down the lapsation number, ENF grant reports, ENF donations collected and recorded, and budgets for the new year, are just to mention a few areas of attention that should be considered.

I am working on a training session in late February or early March to go over the preparation for the close out of one year and the beginning of a new one. All of us can use a refresher course to make sure we enter each new year in the best shape possible. Thank you, wishing you the best.

Fraternally,

Chris Sauer PDD

Central District Training Chair



Youth Activities – Maureen Chapman PER

Now is a good time to start planning the Karen Minutella Reading Initiative. During the first week of March, during read across America, we are asking each lodge to contact their school board and get approval to pick a 3rd grade class to read to and distribute the book, *Freckle Juice*, by Judy Blume. You can order the books by contacting Gloria@bulkbookstore.com or by calling Gloria at 877-650-5649 ext. 272 and mention you are with the Elks.

The State Youth Activities Committee is planning another fun event – Elk-A-Thon on May 30th at 1pm at Old Bridge lodge. We will be 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 and Dunk A Dignitary. If anyone is interested in participating, please let me know. 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. We will be having our District Youth Activities Meeting on Monday, February 9th at Edison lodge. Hospitality at 7pm and meeting to start promptly at 7:30pm. If anyone has any money to turn in for our Candy & Pretzel Fundraiser please bring it to the meeting. We will be picking up more candy. Please let me know what your lodge prefers.

The money from this fundraiser benefits our district for awards and equipment needed for our youth programs. It has also helped to send children and their families to the Somerset Patriots game. Please continue to purchase and support this fundraiser for our district.

Fraternally,

Maureen Chapman PER

Central District Youth Activities 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
Advisor Irene Polanco 908-337-4360



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
Advisor Dawn Roberts 732-642-5949