

# Central District News

New Jersey Elks/May 2026/Volume 22, Issue 12



This past month was amazing. On Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> our District held a “Night of Hope & Support” for one of our own, Elaine Pearson. It was truly heartwarming to see us come together in support of our sister in her fight against ALS. The whole Pearson Family was there, and the outpouring of love made the night so special for Elaine.

My VP Homecoming and District Chair Appreciation Celebration was held on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. I want to thank the East Brunswick lodge for hosting and their help in making the celebration so nice. I also want to thank the Piscataway lodge for their support not only for that night but throughout the entire year.

The Stephen J. Terrible Charity Ball honoring our SCC Ambassadors was held on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at Woodbridge lodge. This was a fun filled night with great food and dancing while helping to support our District Special Children’s Committee and Camp Moore. What a great event. The Central District rocks!

The State Ritual Competition was held on April 26<sup>th</sup> with the officers of Piscataway Lodge #2414 representing the Central District. The team’s performance was very impressive and they placed fourth. I want to congratulate and thank the team for all their hard work and dedication. Best wishes to Brick Lodge #2151 as they came in first and will be representing the State of New Jersey at Grand Lodge this summer.

My last VP Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at Piscataway Lodge. I want to thank all our District Chairs for their passion and commitment this past year and I know that those staying on will continue to keep the Central District the shining star of the state. It is awesome what our committees do for our Special Needs Children and Adults, Veterans and active service personnel, the youth of our communities and those who are less fortunate. Through our actions as Elks, we help make people’s lives better.

At our Wildwood Reunion in June, I ask you all to please come out and support Central District VPE Allen Hartland at the swearing in ceremony on Friday afternoon. Congratulations and lots of success to DDD Eileen Jennings and her team this coming year. I know that our District will be in good hands and will continue to prosper and grow. I would also like to thank DD Dan De Zaio and our district advisors PSDGER Francis J. Decibus and PGLC Pete Smith for their guidance and support.

It has been such a pleasure to attend so many events throughout our district. All our lodges and members were so gracious and welcoming. What a great year it has been. It has been such an honor representing the Central District as your Vice-President and one I will never forget.

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

Fraternally,  
Dan Pencak  
Central District Vice-President



## INSIDE THE DISTRICT

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*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 CJElsCalendar@gmail.com***

## ***District Deputy Message Dan De Zaio DDGER***



To the Elks of the Central District;

May is here and it's a fresh start for our Central District. The district is doing amazing with everything our lodges have to take care of. Please continue focusing on membership - invite new members and stay connected with current ones. Also, keep up with lodge reporting and start preparing for the start of the year responsibilities, including financials. Lodge 990s are due by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

May is the month when I will have my final DD clinic. Please, lodge leadership do your best to be there for an informative review on where we are at this point in time in the year. Lodges will be receiving Grand Lodge resolutions soon, so Exalted Rulers be sure to go over these resolutions at lodge meetings.

I want to really thank you all for the wonderful installation of officers season and to all that helped and installed our current lodge leadership. Each one that I could attend was put together very nicely.

The Central District fundraiser for Elaine Conway-Pearson was a tremendous success. Thank you once again to everyone involved, and of course the lodge and member donations. This is what we do as Elks!!! The total raised at the fundraiser on April 11<sup>th</sup> was \$16,870.

As always in closing, Central District-continue to be "THE BEST OF THE BEST "

Fraternally,  
Dan De Zaio,  
District Deputy Central District





# Elking Around the District



VP Dan Pencak & DD Dan De Zaiio welcome VP-Elect Allen Hartland and DD-Designate Eileen Jennings to their new roles.

South Plainfield Lodge  
Officer Installation



Woodbridge Lodge Past Exalted Rulers at their  
2026 Installation of Officers with their new PER wall plaque.



**Elks gathered for A Night of Hope and Support  
For Elaine Conway Pearson**



**New Brunswick Elks 324 was able to purchase and deliver school uniforms to the Pathways Middle School. We also purchased some for the New Brunswick Middle School with the help of a Beacon Grant/Spotlight Grant from ENF**



**South Plainfield lodge members presented nearly 300 books to third grade students in five schools. These included "Third Grade Angels" for the Karen Minutella Reading Initiative along with a Student Dictionary as part of the Grand Lodge support of The Dictionary Project.**



**Scenes from the Central District SCC Charity Ball**





## ***DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS***

<b>Americanism</b>	Hank Hart PER	tahklikid@gmail.com	609-401-6512
<b>Army of Hope</b>	Sal Malinconico PVP	smalinconico@aol.com	732-690-9421
<b>Auditing</b>	Megan Hayes PER	mah411@optonline.net	732-986-2887
<b>CLMS</b>	Rita Massimi PDD	joereets@yahoo.com	908-966-3242
<b>Conventions</b>	Karen Imperatrice PER	adele310@aol.com	908-472-8649
<b>Drug Awareness</b>	Jeanine Sieber PER	jaselks784@gmail.com	732-690-8858
<b>Government Relations</b>	Ginger Olszewski PER	golszewski@msn.com	732-668-2392
<b>Hoop Shoot</b>	Brian Molnar PER	bmolnar20@aol.com	732-750-9252
<b>Internet Operations</b>	Bill Seesselberg PER	billseess@gmail.com	908-217-1831
<b>Lodge Activities</b>	Betty Bellanca PDD	booper336@yahoo.com	908-917-3166
<b>Membership</b>	Jennifer Hammill PER	jhammillelks@gmail.com	732-718-0167
<b>National Foundation</b>	Paula Kopcho PDD	pjkopcho@gmail.com	732-501-2280.
<b>National Veterans Services</b>	Dave Lewis PER	david.lewis.885@optimum.net	908-227-8228.
<b>Parades</b>	Tina Bartko	tinabartko@gmail.com	732-983-2699
<b>Public Relations</b>	George Michaels PER	geomichaels@aol.com	609-802-2182
<b>Ritual</b>	Jami Gill PER	jgill102178@gmail.com	908-419-3143
<b>Scholarship</b>	Jerry Mercado PER	Jbm.elkslodge324@gmail.com	908-812-5905
<b>Soccer Shoot</b>	Karen Finney	queenfinney@comcast.net	732-514-6614
<b>Special Children</b>	Jessica Dudik ER PER	misspris55@aol.com	732-718-3240
<b>Training</b>	Chris Sauer PDD	yackhunt@aol.com	732-672-9829
<b>Youth Activities</b>	Maureen Chapman PER	mojochapman@aol.com	732-236-7296
<b>Youth Sport Tournament</b>	Allen Hartland PER	allenhartland@gmail.com	732-322-8954



# ***Americanism - Hank Hart PER***

It's hard to believe we are working on a newsletter for the Elk year 2026-2007. Let's hope we finally are rewarded with nice weather for this month of May!

Here is what our Central District lodges have to report:

- Edison Lodge #2487 presented a Fly the Flag Certificate to Wick Plaza for correctly flying the American flag.
- Piscataway Lodge #2414 confirmed their June Flag Day ceremony for June 14<sup>th</sup> but was determining what time it should be held.
- South Plainfield Lodge #2298 is planning a flag retirement on May 30<sup>th</sup> with the assistance of the local Boy Scout troop.
- Watchung Hills Lodge #885 met with their borough committee regarding the expansion of the Flag Day ceremony. The lodge will also be carrying folded American flags in the Memorial Day parade.
- Woodbridge Lodge #2116 is meeting with the township's Mayor, John McCormac and his staff, on May 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the town's participation in the lodge's Flag Day ceremony on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

God Bless you all, keep our troops in mind.

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 and by now should have a copy of the books and/or files needed to complete the 990s. The accountant should be aware that copies of the completed tax forms should be returned to you by June 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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** – Grand Lodge Statutes Section 12.070 requires 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 for approval no later than the final regular lodge meeting in April and voted on by the first meeting in May. Once the budget is approved by the membership it must be uploaded to FRS by May 22, 2026. Instructions on submitting the budget can be found at Elks.org under: *Members Only - Auditing and Accounting - Financial Report (FRS)*.

## **FRS Reporting 1st Quarter 2026-27 Due Dates**

- March 2026 PRELIMINARY ACTUAL DATA Submission Due 4/17/2026
- April 2026 ACTUAL DATA Submission Due 5/15/2026
- 2025-26 Lodge Year BUDGET Submission Due 5/22/2026
- May 2025 ACTUAL DATA Submission Due 6/19/2026

I'm wishing all lodges a successful year ahead!

Fraternally,  
Megan Hayes PER  
Central District Audit Chair



## ***CLMS – Rita Massimi PDD***

Secretaries, if you haven't already done so, the following are a few items that need to be addressed:

Your final Government Relations information for fraternal year 2025-2026 must have been submitted no later than April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Review your list of staffers to validate that the staffers you have listed have access and have the correct access level, such as read only or read and write access. From this same list, also validate that the Cyber-Assistant and the various Coordinators are correct. The Coordinator assignments are very important to your lodge, to Grand Lodge and to your State Association. Without these assignments, your lodge committee chair or designated coordinator will not have online access to forward applications or winners to the next level.

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 can be found in the Secretary news box labeled "Out of Balance". This must be done no later than May 25<sup>th</sup>.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Fraternally,  
Rita Massimi PDD  
Central District CLMS Chair



# Conventions – Karen Imperatrice PER

## Wildwood Annual NJ State Elks Convention 2026:

The State Convention Committee is gearing up for the NJ Elks Wildwood Convention which is scheduled for Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup> through Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup>. As you know, time is of the essence in order for our conventions to run smoothly - so be sure to download any forms and turn them in by the deadlines provided on the forms. The applications for the WW Annual Ball and Pre-Registration Form can be accessed on the [njelks.org](http://njelks.org) website under *State Activities/Conventions/Wildwood Reunion*. All 50/50 tickets have been distributed also.

### Forms include:

- Ad Journal: Submission for the Ad Journal must be received no later than April 30<sup>th</sup>
- Pre-Registration Badges for Members and Antlers (These forms and payment must be received no later than May 7<sup>th</sup>)
- Embroidered ID Badge
- WW Annual Ball (Exalted Rulers attend for free, guests are extra). You must register for this no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>. No tickets will be sold in Wildwood
- State Pins, Jackets, Ties and Scarves

### Grand Lodge Convention:

This year's Grand Lodge Convention will be held in Chicago from July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 8<sup>th</sup>. I have sent an email to all Exalted Rulers and their lodge secretaries with the application attached. All applications and monies must be submitted by Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

I will be holding a District Convention Meeting on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at Woodbridge Lodge. Hopefully I will have your lodge's t-shirts to distribute at this meeting along with your pre-registration badges. You can also return your 50/50 tickets then or you can give them to me at the Convention Center. I encourage all Exalted Rulers to attend with your spouses/significant others. Hospitality will be at 7:00 pm, meeting will start at 7:30 pm.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact me. As your District Convention Chair, I am more than happy to assist!

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Imperatrice PER  
Central District Convention Chair



## ***Hoop Shoot – Brian Molnar PER***

The week of April 13<sup>th</sup> was Elks National Hoop Shoot week in Chicago. In the Girls 8-9 year old division, Marina Abou-Daoud from Lambertville Lodge placed first in her division. Marina made 23 out of 25 free throws and 9 out of 10 in the shoot-off. Marina will now travel to The Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield Mass to have her accomplishment showcased.

New Jersey had a total of four shooters compete. They are all eligible to compete next year. Next year's Central District shoot is scheduled for January 10, 2027 at the Woodbridge Community Center, with a weather make-up date of January 17<sup>th</sup> . Thank you to all the Central District lodge hoop shoot chairs for all your hard work. We look forward to next season.

Fraternally yours,

Brian Molnar PER

Central District Hoop Shoot Chair



# ACTIVITIES

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

## DERBY DE MAYO

SATURDAY MAY 2, 2026



SOUTH PLAINFIELD ELKS LODGE 2298

**PARTY AT THE ELKS!**

DRINK SPECIALS  
BRING A SNACK TO SHARE

## WATCHUNG HILLS ELKS #885 DERBY DE MAYO



**ELKS 885 TAQUERIA**

AUTHENTIC MEXICAN TACO BAR!  
BIRRIA, CARNITAS & CHICKEN  
MAKE YOUR OWN STREET TACOS!!

**MAY 2ND**

TACO BAR OPEN 4 - 8 PM

**\$15**

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT ELKS LODGE

1 ELKS TRAIL WARREN, NJ



Hot & Wooden Horse contests

New Brunswick Elks #324 presents:

## THE 152ND KENTUCKY DERBY RACE

Join us for an unforgettable night of food, fun, family, friends and more!



**4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

May 2, 2026 Doors open 5 pm

Pre-Sale \$13 @ Door \$15

40 Livingston Ave. New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
Contact **Aimee Schneider** (732)207-3774




**WOODBRIDGE ELKS**  
**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
*Supporting the Army of Hope - Central District*

**Sunday, May 3rd**  
**8:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

**Woodbridge Elks Lodge**  
 665 Rahway Ave, Woodbridge, NJ

**Menu Includes:**

- Pancakes
- Sausage
- Eggs
- Breakfast Potatoes
- Pork Roll
- Toast
- Coffee
- Juice.

**All Proceeds Benefit**  
**The Army of Hope - Central District**  
*Helping Veterans & Their Families in Need*

**Donation:**  
 Adults: **\$10**  
 Children: **\$5**  
 Kids under 5: **FREE**

*Come Hungry - Leave Happy - Support a Hero!*

**MEXICAN NIGHT**  
**HAPPY CINCO DE MAYO**

**Taco Bar**  
 Choose from a selection of various toppings.

**Make your own Quesadilla**  
 (chicken or cheese)

**Tortilla Chips**  
 Salsa & Queso



Tuesday, May 5, 2026  
 Time: 6pm  
 at Piscataway Elks  
 \$15.00 in advance  
 (\$20 after May 1<sup>st</sup>)  
 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!



Carteret Elks Special Children's Committee Presents:

*An Evening With*  
**Diamond & Rocketman!**




**The Legendary Music**  
 of Neil Diamond and Elton John  
*Performed by Celebrity Impersonator Devon Cass*

Friday, May 8, 2026 ~ \$25 ~ Cash Bar ~ BYO Snacks  
 Show starts at 7 pm / Doors open at 6!  
**Carteret Elks Hall, 233 Roosevelt Avenue, Carteret**  
 For Tickets call Betty at 908-917-3166  
 Or stop in the Tap Room

*South Plainfield*  
**Elks Lodge 2298**  
*Mother's Day Breakfast*  
**May 10, 2026**  
**8am-12pm**

\$10 per person  
 \$9 Seniors  
 \$6 Children under 12  
**VETERANS FREE**

*Includes Scrambled Eggs, Eggs made to order, pancakes, French Toast, Sausage, Bacon and Home Fries*

# DO YOU LIKE GAMES?

The State Youth Activities Committee Needs You!

## ELK-A-THON

**When: May 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**Time: 1pm**

**Location: Old Bridge Elks Lodge**  
67 Old Amboy Rd, Old Bridge, NJ 08857

Bring your friends and let's see who brings home the **GOLD** to their District

We need 6 people from each district to play

Contact: Chemayne Myers, PER for more information, [cmannornj@gmail.com](mailto:cmannornj@gmail.com)  
Cmm Q&A Zoom meeting April 25th 11am

Test Your Elks Knowledge with Trivia  
Do You Know What You Need For State Attire  
This is a GAME RELAY AND EVERYONE WANTS TO PLAY  
Mad Lib the 11 O'clock Toast

THE 11 O'CLOCK TOAST

WOODBRIDGE ELKS #2116  
SPECIAL CHILDREN COMMITTEE

# Luau

Friday, May 29 | 6PM - 10PM

\$5/person

Must RSVP by May 27  
[tevanik@comcast.net](mailto:tevanik@comcast.net)  
732.850.1046

Middle school or older



Join us Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> for a delightful afternoon of "tea time", focused on those 12 years old and under. Parents and grandparents can share in the festivities of a memorable afternoon. We will have table activities while enjoying tea time fare. A photo area will be set up to remember your special day! Everyone receives a special gift at their seat.

The cost is \$15.00 per person, paid in advance. Sign up at the lodge or send a check referencing "Children's Tea" to:

Piscataway Elk's Lodge 2414  
450 River Rd. Piscataway, NJ 08854.  
(732) 356-9827

Be sure to mention how many adults and how many children are in your party!

All proceeds benefit the lodge and its charities

WATCHUNG HILLS ELKS LODGE # 885  
Proudly Presents

# COMIC RELIEF NIGHT

A Bob Gonzo & Eric Snidder Production

## THURSDAY MAY 14, 2026

Starring

  
**BOB GONZO**

  
**RICHIE BYRNE**

  
**CHRIS MONTY**

DOORS AT 7 PM ~ COMPLIMENTARY LIGHT BUFFET  
ADMISSION \$25 - FOR TICKETS CALL (908) 668-9727  
WATCHUNG HILLS ELKS LODGE #885  
1 ELKS TRAIL, WARREN, NJ 07059

## ***National Foundation – Paula Kopcho PDD***

Thank you! To all our Lodges of the Central District – Here are the final numbers for Fraternal year 2025 – 2026.

We ended the year with a District average of \$11.50 per member, and a total of \$31,464.30 in donations. South Plainfield finishes the year with a whopping \$38.19 per giving member, South Amboy with \$17.16, and Woodbridge in third with \$10.83 per member.

This year's Grand Exalted Ruler Goal stays at \$5.15 per member, and our state receives \$1.52 back for every dollar donated to Elks National Foundation.

There is big news going on at ENF. They are migrating to a new donation system that will be revealed by the end of the summer. Donation reports will not be available until then, so each chair should keep track of your lodge donations. The Chair Challenge is also postponed until the new system is up and running.

The Grants for Fraternal Year 2026 – 2027 are open, so start planning and applying, and let me know if you have a lodge event going on.

Thank you for all you do!

Paula Kopcho, PDD  
Central District ENF Chair



# ***National Veteran Services – Dave Lewis PER***

Sending out a reminder for our committee, for those who received tickets to the Jim Hall picnic in June, please sell the best you can and return them to me at our June meeting.

I have received several bottles for the basket raffle and if possible, please send more. I will be able to get those to the state committee for the raffle prior to the picnic.

I'd like to thank those of you who were able to get to the latest fundraiser at the Dunellen Hotel. It was a good night with a good crowd.

It's been a slow month but I'm expecting things to pick up soon.

I'll be sending out emails next week to remind everyone about changes in our schedule.

Let's start this summer season by enjoying the weather and look forward to our state convention.

Thank You for your support

God Bless our Troops and God Bless the USA!

David Lewis PER  
Central District Veterans Chair



## ***Parades – Tina Bartko***

Parade season is officially upon us! Over the next month, we'll be hitting the streets for our Memorial Day Parades, quickly followed by the much-anticipated Wildwood Parade.

We have an early start time at the state convention this year, which is actually great news—it means we'll all have plenty of time to relax by the pool and soak up that Saturday afternoon sun. Let's keep our fingers crossed for clear skies and a beautiful, sunny Saturday!

A huge thank you to all the lodges that sold raffle tickets for the State Parades Committee. Your hard work makes these events possible.

Parades Meeting: We will meet at the end of May to finalize all of the Wildwood details. Stay tuned for the exact date and location!

Questions? If you need anything at all regarding the Wildwood parade, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly. Tina Bartko 732-983-2699 or [tinabartko@gmail.com](mailto:tinabartko@gmail.com).

Fraternally,  
Tina Bartko  
Central District Parades Chair



# Public Relations – George Michaels PER

We have had a very productive year in Elksdom. Various lodges and district committees have had their events publicized in “Elks” magazine. Please continue to submit your articles on your events to the Grand Lodge and state publication or send information for me to write up and submit.

Please remember to send items to Bill Seeselberg for inclusion in our district newsletter. Photographs in JPG format are welcomed and encouraged.

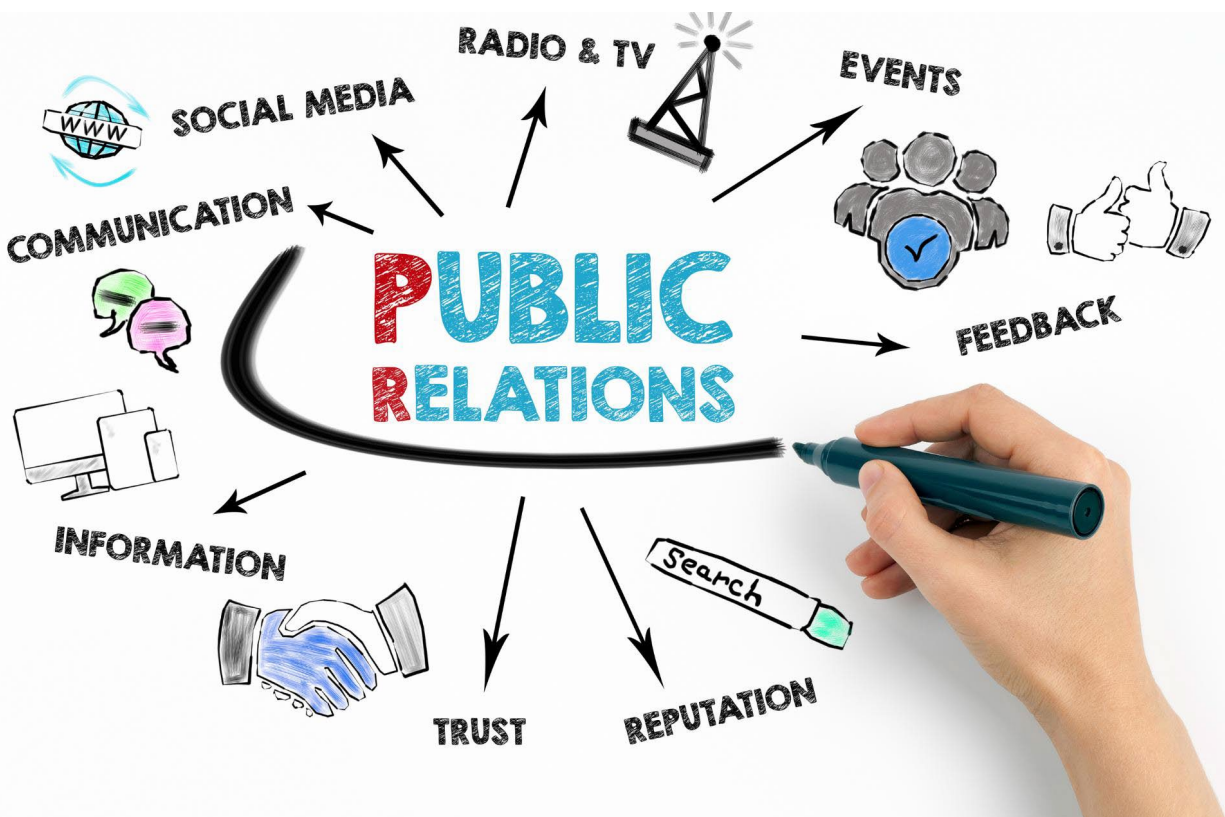
It has been an honor and a privilege to have worked with VP Dan Pencak. I look forward to working with VP Allen Hartland, as I am thrilled to report that I have been asked to remain as Public Relations and Marketing chair for the next Elk year.

If you have any Public Relations concerns, or have any need for assistance, please feel free to contact me. Looking forward to working with all of you.

Fraternally,

George Michaels PER

Central District Public Relations Chair



# ***Ritual - Jami Gill PER***

I would like to thank everyone who took the time on Sunday, April 26, to come out and support the Piscataway Team as they performed in the State Ritual Contest in Long Branch.

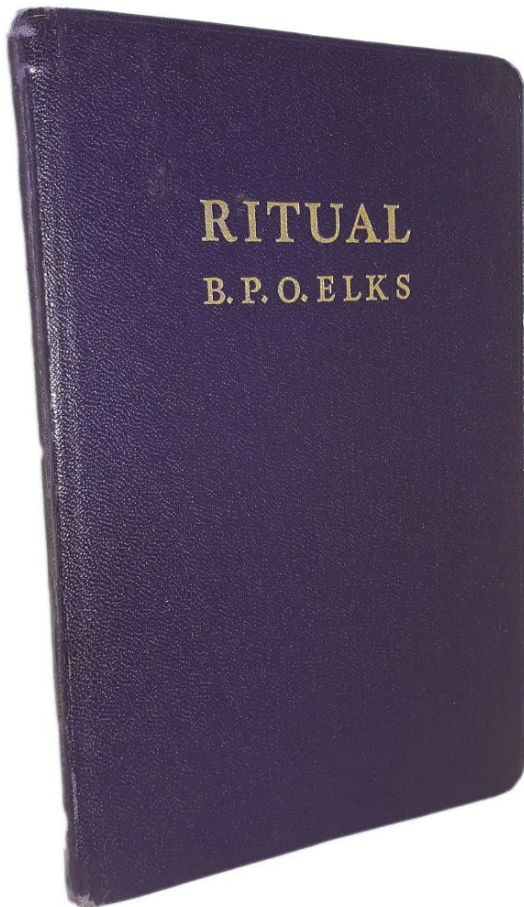
Although Piscataway did not place first, they represented the Central District with pride and professionalism. You should all be very proud of your efforts.

I would also like to extend a special congratulations to Christina Buchek for her outstanding performance as Lecturing Knight. She not only earned the All-State Award but also tied for the prestigious Earl T. "Corky" Cornelius Award, recognizing the highest-performing officer in the contest.

To all performing officers: please take time to review your parts in the Ritual—whether you plan to memorize them or read them. Doing so will help ensure that when your lodge conducts an initiation, you are comfortable in your role and able to deliver it smoothly and confidently.

Although it may seem early, please also keep in mind Flag Day on Sunday, June 14. As we approach the date, I encourage all performing officers to review their parts. Since this ceremony is open to the public, it presents a wonderful opportunity to showcase our ritual work

Fraternally,  
Jami Gill, PER  
Central District Ritual Chair






# Scholarship – Jerry Mercado PER



## New Jersey Elks – 2026 Scholarship Updates






### NJ Elks Vocational Scholarship – 2026

-  **Application Deadline to Local Lodge:** *Must be postmarked by May 12, 2026*
-  **Lodge Review:** Local lodge verifies eligibility and completeness
-  **Forwarding Deadline:** Lodge must send approved applications to the **District Chair by June 1, 2026**




### New Jersey Elks Family Scholarship – 2026

-  **Application Window:** Open until **June 30, 2026**
-  **Lodge Verification:**
  - Lodge Secretary confirms the applicant's relationship to an Elk in good standing
  - Secretary must **sign** and **affix the lodge seal**
-  **Submission for Scoring:** Completed applications are forwarded to the **Region 1 Co-Chair** for evaluation



### NJSEA Special Children's Committee Scholarship

-  **Deadline:** Applications were due **April 15, 2026**



### 2026 Most Valuable Student Scholarship



### New Jersey's Top 20 National Finalist

- **Jacklyn Cassandra**
  - Representing **Union Elks Lodge #1583**
  - Awarded **\$30,000**
  - One of 26 NJ applicants in the national competition



### Central District Recognition

- **Daiancy Aquino Jimenez**
  - Representing **Carteret Lodge #2235**
  - Awarded **\$4,000** as one of the 25 national runner-ups

Congratulations to both outstanding students for representing New Jersey with excellence!



### ENF Legacy Award – District Winner

- **Zoe Wolke**
  - Representing **Metuchen Elks Lodge #1914**
  - Awarded **\$6,000** A wonderful achievement — congratulations, Zoe!

# ***Special Children Committee - Jessica Dudik PER***

The 2026 Stephen J. Terrible Charity Ball was held on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at Woodbridge Lodge, honoring our Area 4 Ambassadors. Unfortunately, Nicholas was not able to be with us due to health concerns. However, his father was in attendance and was honored to be there. A BIG Thank you to all lodges for their monetary donation and Tricky Tray Donations, our Tricky Tray this year raised over \$1700 THANK YOU.

The 2026 Harry Newton Memorial Golf Outing will take place on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at Warrenbrook Golf Course. Donations are still being Accepted please contact Dan or Dave from Piscataway lodge.

The Central District SCC will be hosting a dinner at Camp Moore on Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. A menu will be discussed and finalized at the June district meeting. If you are interested in participating in this event, please let your lodge SCC chair know so we can determine how many people will be going.

Thank you to everyone that donated clothing to the SCC Clothing Drive Fundraisers.

## **Reminders...**

Please note our next committee meeting will be on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at South Plainfield lodge. Camp Moore open House Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 12pm-3pm (Please RSVP to me via text at 732-718-3240) Miracle Run Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at New Egypt Lodge.

## **Events happening in our District...**

- Carteret: Neil Diamond and Elton John Impersonators on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>
- Piscataway: Harry Newton Memorial Golf Outing May 8<sup>th</sup>
- Woodbridge: Baked Potato Night May 8<sup>th</sup>, Breakfast April 12<sup>th</sup>

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 May to you all!

With the new fiscal year beginning, perhaps there are new House Committee Chairs and new Bartenders coming on board. With the change of managing personnel and employees, perhaps a quick review of Responsible Beverage Service is a good idea. A civil suit usually carries a monetary judgement and a criminal action can often require jail time. If we serve guests and members at our bars irresponsibly a civil or criminal action can occur. How to avoid both of these situations is to check ID and ensure all are of legal age and not serving someone who is inebriated. Approved types of ID are a state issued drivers license, a state issued ID Card, a permanent residency card, a military ID card or a passport. If the form of ID presented has expired it is no longer valid. If the ID presented is torn, flimsy, poor quality, misspelled, bad or blurry photo or incorrect logos and design, this should alert the server that there is a problem.

Recognizing intoxication can be trickier. Each patron should be observed on arrival for a level of sobriety, if they already seem to be intoxicated or close to intoxication the server has the right to refuse service. Intoxication goes through stages, stage 1-lowered inhibitions, stage 2-judgement based, argumentative, outspoken about service, foul language, stage 3-change in body functions, slurred speech, loss of fine motor skills, losing train of thought, and stage 4-swaying, stumbling, dropping things, unable to walk straight and drowsy.

The serving of alcohol at our lodges is a privilege and not a right. Our servers with good reason have the right to refuse service and help save lives of the members and others. If you are interested in more detail on this subject, please access the manual on “Responsible Beverage Service” on [elks.org](http://elks.org).

Fraternally,

Christine Sauer PDD

Central District Training Chair

# **TRAINING**



# Youth Activities – Maureen Chapman PER

Piscataway held their Batters Up on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Piscataway Little League Field. Metuchen is holding their Batters Up on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. The Central District Batters Up is scheduled for Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. We will need volunteers from every lodge. Please let me know if any other lodges are planning to hold their own Batters Up contest. The State Batters Up is scheduled for August 1<sup>st</sup> at Howell South Little League, 2740 Lakewood/Allenwood Rd, Howell, NJ. Registration starts at 8:30am.

The State Youth Activities Committee Elk-A-Thon is scheduled for May 30<sup>th</sup> 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 first 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 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.

Happy Mother's Day to all.

Fraternally,  
Maureen Chapman PER  
Central District Youth Activities Chair



**Students at Franklin School thank the South Plainfield Elks for giving them the books "Third Grade Angels" and the Student Dictionary.**

# District Lodge Information

## **Carteret #2235**

233 Roosevelt Ave.

732-541-2880

Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Gary Kelliher, 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 8 pm

ER Peter Namen, Secy Rita Massimi PDD

## **South Amboy #784**

601 Washington Ave.

732-727-7170

Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays 7:30 pm

ER Dawn Roberts, Secy. Mary Patricia Kall

## **South Plainfield #2298**

1254 New Market Ave.

908-668-9750

Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 7:30 pm

ER Tom Perry, Secy. Sandi Smith

## **Watchung Hills #885**

1 Elks Trail

908-668-9727

Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 7:30 pm

ER Susan Dougherty, Secy. Danny Larsen PDD

## **Woodbridge #2116**

665 Rahway Ave.

732-634-2116

Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays 7:30 pm

ER Bruce Horvath, Secy. Paula Kopcho PDD

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## **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