



# Central District News

New Jersey Elks/October 2026/Volume 23, Issue 5

## Vice President Message Allen Hartland VP

Dear Elks Family,

I just heard the devastating news regarding the fire at Edison Lodge. I am confident that our Elks family will come together to support our Edison brothers and sisters during this time of need.

I have spent the past month meeting with our district chairs, and I am deeply impressed by their competence and dedication. They create a wonderful working atmosphere, and I truly enjoy working with all committee chairs.

As a reminder, I encourage all lodges to continue initiating new members. I am eager to visit each lodge, so please send me an email with your proposed dates so I can check my schedule. Additionally, for any district chair who has not yet held a district meeting, please schedule one soon so our lodges remain informed about our committees' work.

Finally, while I was disappointed to cancel the Vice President's clinic, we have rescheduled it for Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.

Fraternally in Elkdom,  
Allen Hartland  
Central District Vice-President



### 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

*Allen Hartland VP*  
*Eileen Jennings DDGER*  
*Betty Bellanca CDST*

*Newsletter & Calendar*  
*Bill Seesselberg PER*

### Our State Project



*Please send articles and events to [CJElksCalendar@gmail.com](mailto:CJElksCalendar@gmail.com)*



## ***District Deputy Message Eileen Jennings DDGER***



To All of our Central District Brothers and Sisters,

As I sit here trying to write this message I am overwhelmed with sorrow over the loss of our Edison Lodge #2487 due to a fire this past Saturday. Thankfully no one was in the building and by the grace of God no one was injured. I was with their ER Marty, his wife and many members of the lodge that terrible morning. The support that has come from our Central District members to all of Edison Lodge is outstanding!!!!

I can tell you first-hand they are so thankful for every phone call, text and post that have gone out in support of them. For as they so eloquently said the lodge is just a building...but we, the membership are the Edison Elks.

Please continue to show your support to them as they maneuver through the process of reorganizing and rebuilding and I will be planning a fund raiser in the near future to help support them. I also want you all to know that the South Central District has also reached out to us and is ALL in on helping our Edison Lodge out which is a wonderful sign of our Brotherly Love throughout the Great State of New Jersey.

We have had a lot of events in the past month and I was glad to see most of you at these events. My Pre-Visits and Official Visits are well underway and I am happy to report they are going well.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy October. Please remember to include me when you are bringing in new members and if my schedule allows I will be there.

Please keep Edison lodge members in your thoughts and prayers and together we will help them come through this bigger, better and stronger than ever!!!!

**We Are Central District Strong!!!!**

Yours in Elkdom  
Eileen Jennings  
District Deputy of the Central District





# Elking Around the District



**Elks Night at the Somerset Patriots celebrated our youth!**

**Greased Lightning Nostalgia-  
food, fun, and friends at  
the South Plainfield lodge!**



**South Plainfield lodge  
welKomed three new members  
in September!**

Watchung Hills lodge delivered  
Welcome Home Kits to two  
appreciative veterans



The bad weather didn't dampen the spirits or commitment of the  
Elks who joined the DAP Walk Out on Drugs at Carteret Lodge.

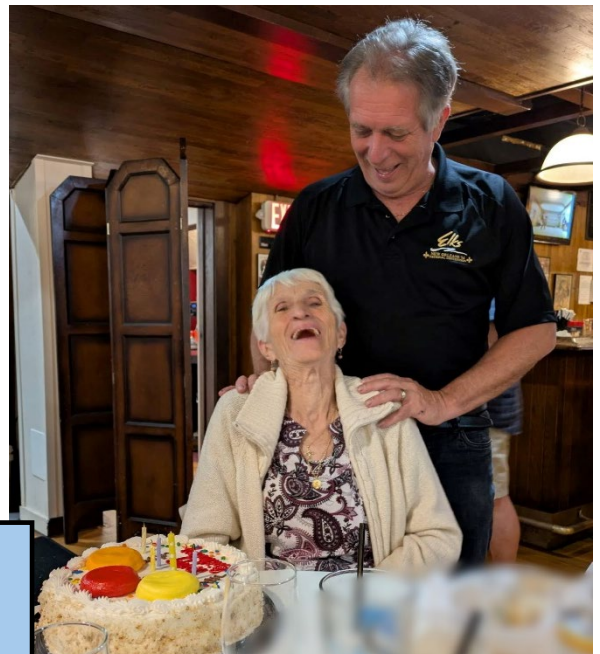




**Watchung Hills Lodge 885  
participated in the 9/11 service at  
Warren Town Hall.**



**A good time was had at the  
Veterans Fundraiser at the  
Dunellen Hotel.**



# YOU ARE A MEMBER NOT A CUSTOMER

THIS IS YOUR LODGE.



The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks  
is a fraternal organization built on  
Brotherly Love, Justice, Charity, and Fidelity.  
We are Elks. We care. We serve. We strengthen our communities.

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP MEANS:



### PARTICIPATE

A few hands and  
a few hours make  
a real difference.



### LEARN

Discover our history,  
share in our values,  
and grow as  
Elks and leaders.



### SERVE

Support our  
communities through  
Elks programs and  
charitable service.



### BE KIND

Respect one another.  
Welcome people.  
Strengthen our  
brotherhood.



### KNOW YOUR LODGE

It is a benefit for members  
and qualified guests — not  
a public facility. Please follow  
lodge rules and be respectful  
of your fellow Elks.



### GROW OUR FAMILY

Invite and sponsor  
family, friends,  
coworkers, and  
neighbors.

YOUR LODGE NEEDS YOU.

PARTICIPATE ★ VOLUNTEER ★ LEARN ★ SERVE ★ SPONSOR

Ready Elks, *Let's Go!*



★ BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS ★



## ***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> | Danny Larsen PDD      | dlarsen321.dl@gmail.com    | 908-752-0071  |
| <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    | 908-337-3866  |
| <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 Sports Tournament</b>    | Bill Negvesky PER     | billynjad@gmail.com        |               |



***Be sure to visit [www.njelks.org](http://www.njelks.org) to keep up with our state organization!***

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

The Americanism committee chairs from our Central District met at Woodbridge's lodge on August 31<sup>st</sup>. It was great to see all the returning lodge directors at the meeting, as well as having VP Allen Hartland in attendance.

A lot of time was spent on this year's essay contest, ***“Explain a Constitutional Right or Privilege and How It Affects You and Your Family”***. It certainly is a mouthful, and it was stressed that the focus of each lodge is to determine if the child wrote out the essay or if AI was used. Lodge chairs were asked to have a conversation with the contact person at each school participating for their help in also determining whether the student was truly the author of the essay.

It was also announced that the Citizen of the Year dinner will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m. at Woodbridge lodge.

Some individual lodge highlights were Carteret, Piscataway, South Plainfield and Watchung Hills all participating in “9/11” observances.

God Bless our fellow Elks and families, our troops, and the U.S.A.

Fraternally

Hank Hart PER

Central District Americanism Chair



# ***Auditing – Megan Hayes PER***

## **Happy Fall!**

Per Grand Lodge statute, each lodge's audit committee shall, in the month of October, review the financial record-keeping of the lodge and compliance of the approved budget. They should also be checking to see if vouchers match payments and event forms are filled out and match the expenses and proceeds for all events the lodge has held in the last quarter. The committee should give their report at the last meeting of the lodge in October.

Just a reminder, the monthly FRS Report is due by the third Friday of every month.

Fraternally,

Megan Hayes PER

Central District Audit Chair



## ***Conventions - Karen Imperatrice PER***

The dates for the 2026 Fall Conference are November 13 – November 15, 2026. We will be staying at Ocean Place in Long Branch, NJ. Application forms were emailed to all Exalted Rulers and lodge secretaries on Thursday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have not received the email, please let me know. Also, if you have any difficulties filling out the form, please do not hesitate to contact me. The form is self-explanatory and very easy to fill out. Application must be submitted by Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

I have the 50/50 raffle tickets for Fall Conference. Please make sure you reach out to me so we can arrangements to meet up to get your lodge's tickets. These can be turned in at Fall Conference.

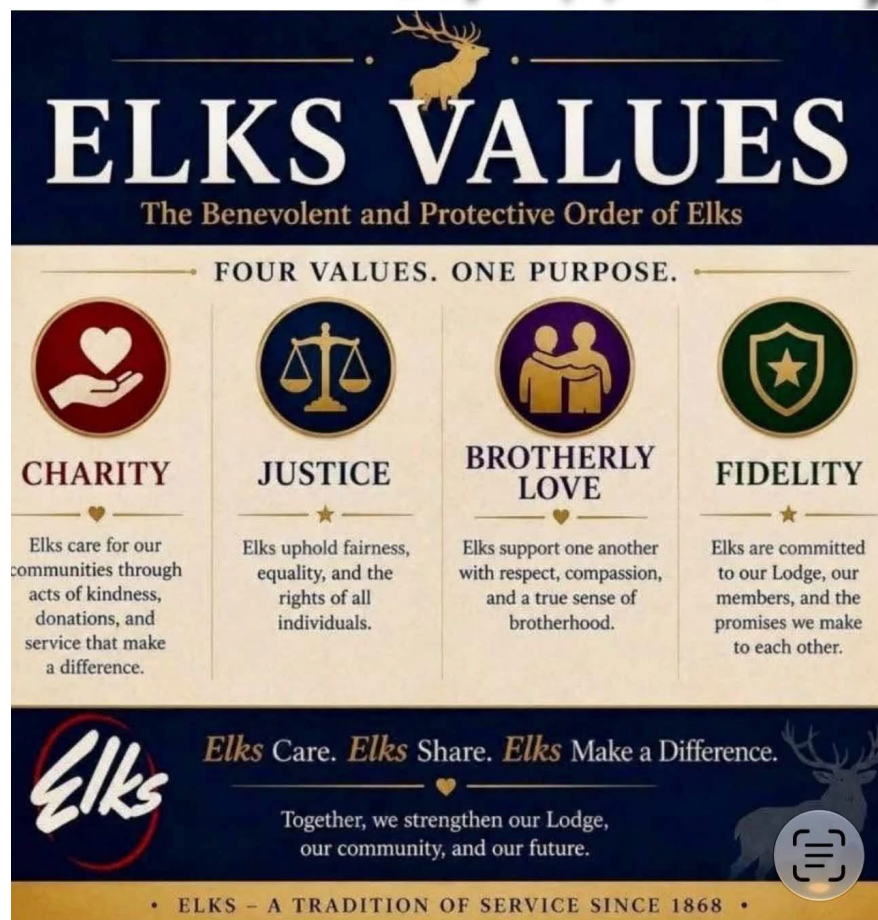
Our next State Convention meeting is Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Once I have the itinerary for the Conference, I will email it to all the Exalted Rulers.

Respectfully submitted

Karen Imperatrice, PER

Central District Convention Chair

### ***New Jersey State Elks Association Fall Conference***



## ***Drug Awareness – Jeanine Sieber PER***

With the weather not being so cooperative, we were still able to salvage our district Walk Out on Drugs. Due to the very slippery conditions at the waterfront, it was decided to cancel the walk part of the day. We all ended up gathering at Carteret Lodge for hospitality and a good time. We had 36 members (10 out of 11 lodges), much appreciated members and friends willing to still come out in the rain and support the cause. Thank you to all; especially Carteret Lodge for sponsoring the event!

Our first district raffle fundraiser went very well, with George Yusko from Edison lodge winning the Yeti Cooler filled with many goodies! I was pleased to inform our State DAP Chairperson, Mary Ellen Lawrence, that our district has significantly increased our district donation for The Walk Out on Drugs once again. Thank you to the lodges that contributed and participated this year. Sadly, I cannot report that all lodges did so. We have to do better, to show our commitment to support our youth!

Our district and state chili cook offs are well underway. The district will be held on Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 3pm to 6pm at Colonia Lodge. Doors open at 2pm. It is \$8 to taste and vote, with lodge winners/contestants admitted for free! The state cook-off will be on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1pm- 5pm at Woodbridge lodge. \$5 to taste and vote, contestants free. Hot dogs will also be served. This year we will have music, football toss, apple pie eating contest and more! Weather permitting we will be outdoors! It is sure to be a fun afternoon! All proceeds of the district and state cook off, go toward the NJSEA Pathways and Peer Leadership Conferences.

Which brings me to the applications for above said conferences that are now available online! All lodge secretaries received a flyer in the mail to be hung in lodges! The theme of this year's DAP student contest is "A Healthy Me is Drug Free." The poster contest is for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders, the essay is for 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grades and the video contest is for both middle and high school students. The poster contest entries must be on 8 ½ by 11 inch paper. It is suggested that you give a deadline before winter break. We will be judging the district winner at our January meeting. There is a training site for the contests and other DAP information/forms on [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org). It is highly recommended for both new and returning lodge chairpersons to go to this site.

The nominations for the Enrique Camarena Law Enforcement Officers award, is due to the State Chairperson by November 1<sup>st</sup>. As we have discussed in previous meetings, I need to have it before that date.

Just a reminder, when you are using the district pop up canopy or the DAP tablecloth, you need to return them right after your event. If you want to use the Elroy costume or the state pop up canopy, you need to send the request to the region representative at least two weeks prior to your event. Jim Dugan, Manasquan lodge is our region contact. He can be reached at 732-610-2052, or [Jjdugan1@msn.com](mailto:Jjdugan1@msn.com). Please let me know if you are borrowing from Jim. Thank you.

Fraternally,  
Jeanine A. Sieber, PER  
Central District DAP Chairperson



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

Donation numbers per lodge for the six-month mark are not yet available as ENF is upgrading their computer system to make reporting and donating easier. I'll keep you updated on when new reports are available. I understand it should be soon.

There is a Region 1 ENF meeting on Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at Woodbridge lodge in the main hall. Just to remind everyone, there is usually a Have a Heart donation contest from January 14<sup>th</sup> – February 14<sup>th</sup>, and there is also usually a cocktail party in March to help raise money for ENF. I will bring information back after our October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Our district has \$57,000 in grants. Please apply for the grants and share your ideas. There are a lot of good reasons to ask for grant money and the applications are fairly easy, and by not applying leaves money on the table.

After our region meeting, I'll see if I can set up a Zoom meeting with the lodge chairs to share whatever information that can be passed along.

Keep up the good work! Remember October is ENF Month, so if you have events for ENF, let me know.

Enjoy these beautiful days of fall, apply for those grants, and let me know if you have any questions.

Fraternally,

Paula Kopcho PDD

Central District National Foundation Chair



**Elks**  
National  
Foundation

# ACTIVITIES

**PISCATAWAY LODGE 2414**



## Oktoberfest

**October 10, 5 - 8pm**  
 Assorted Bavarian Foods, Music, Games, and Fun!  
 Cabbage & Noodles, Pork, Bratwurst, Chicken, & Dessert  
 Assorted Bavarian Beverages for purchase as well!  
 \$15 Adults/5 and Under Free  
 Pay @ Sign up with bartender  
 OR:  908-966-3242

**BRING A FRIEND!**

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE LODGE AND ITS CHARITIES



## CIGAR NIGHT

**Friday, Oct. 23 Starting 7pm**

**\$30 Smokers:** 2 Premium Cigars, Hospitality, 1 Beverage of your choice  
 Door Prizes

**\$15 Non-Smokers:** Hospitality, 1 Beverage of your choice  
 Door Prizes

 Venmo Rita@joereets

 Zelle 908-966-3242

**OR**

**Stop In Sign up and pay bartender!**  
**—by October. 16th—**



**SOUTH PLAINFIELD ELKS LODGE 2298**  
**PREORDER SALE**

**MUMS**  
**PREORDER SALE**  
**ONLY \$10 EACH**  
 (Colors May Vary)

**ORDERS DUE BY: OCTOBER 17, 2026**  
**PICK UP DATE: OCTOBER 24, 2026**  
 ORDER FORM AVAILABLE IN THE SOCIAL QUARTERS

Sponsored by: YOUTH ACTIVITIES

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
**CONTACT: JENN BIRD**  
**PHONE: 732-570-2459**

Now accepting reservations to Piscataway Elk's #2414

**Autumn Tea**

Saturday, October 3, 2026 1-3pm  
 \$23.00pp

You will be greeted with a welcome beverage and your chance to win one of many door prizes!

Enjoy an enhanced menu while savoring Lady Jan's traditional homemade scones.

Don't miss out on a **Grand Prize** given to the person wearing the best decorated hat!

Seating is limited, please reserve early by sending a check to:  
 Piscataway Elks 450 River Rd., Piscataway, NJ 08854  
 -or- send your prepayment through Zelle: 908-966-3242 or Venmo: rita@jogreets

(payments by Zelle or Venmo must be received by 9/25/26)

All payments should reference October Tea on memo line.

Any questions please call Valerie at 423-341-5060 or the Lodge directly at 732-356-9827

All proceeds go to the Lodge and its charities

**60/70 DANCE**  
 Music by **Terry Spathis**

**10/23 6:30 TO 9:30**

**\$15 PP. INCLUDES A DRINK (UP TO \$5)**  
**SOUTH AMBOY ELKS 784**  
 601 Washington Ave, South Amboy

**BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS**  
**BAR WILL BE OPEN**  
**DRESS THE PART....PRIZES**  
**GAMES**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**  
**732 763 6232**

From August 21st through October 25th  
 We Will Collecting Empty Ink Cartridges For Recycling.  
 Just Drive In Our Lot And Drop Off



**OUTSIDE DRIVE-UP DROP-OFF**

Sunday's from 12- 2 pm Wednesday's 10am- 12p Friday's 4-7pm  
 Or During Any Lodge Event Or Opening



A Small Token Of Time , For A Big Impact!  
 South Amboy Elks 784 601 Washington Ave  
 732-727-7170 or Text For Info 732-887-0316

**CENTRAL DISTRICT**

# Chili COOK OFF

THE WINNER OF THE DISTRICT CHILI COOK OFF WILL WIN BRAGGING RIGHTS & BE ENTERED INTO THE STATE CHILI COOK OFF COMPETITION ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH AT WOODBRIDGE LODGE DOORS OPEN AT 2:00

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH**  
FROM 3:00-6:00  
(CONTESTANTS TO ARRIVE BY 2:00)  
**COLONIA ELKS LODGE**

THE CHILI COOK OFF COMPETITION WILL BE JUDGED BY...  
**SECRET JUDGES!!**

**DISTRICT - FREE FOR LODGE WINNERS & \$8.00 TO TASTE/VOTE**




THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
**ELKS LODGE 2298**  
AT 1254 NEW MARKET AVE, SO. PLAINFIELD, NJ  
PRESENTS

MAGIC ILLUSIONS  
MIND-BENDING TRICKS  
**10/30/26**

**MICHAEL FORTE**  
ILLUSIONIST  
*Mischief Night*

COME WITNESS SOME MISCHIEF ON  
**MISCHIEF NIGHT**

|                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br><b>SHOWTIME</b><br><b>7PM</b> | <br>SOUTH PLAINFIELD ELKS LODGE<br>1254 New Market Ave,<br>South Plainfield, NJ | <br>FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30TH<br>DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM<br>\$20 PRE-SOLD TICKETS AT THE LODGE<br>TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR<br>UNTIL CAPACITY |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

 MIND-BENDING ILLUSIONS | 
  INCREDIBLE TRICKS | 
  A NIGHT OF MAGIC & MISCHIEF

**QUESTIONS - CALL CHRIS 732-672-9829**

TO BENEFIT THE ARMY OF HOPE COMMITTEE



**Carteret Elks**  
**PER Association**  
★ presents ★

# WING NIGHT!

**\$10 PER PERSON**  
for a variety of wings!



★ **IN THE TAP ROOM** ★  
Open to all Elk Members and their guests.

**Saturday, October 10th**  
★ Starting at 6 pm ★



CARTERET  
**ELKS**  
• LODGE 2235 •

# Vendor Fair

♥ SHOP • SUPPORT • MAKE A DIFFERENCE ♥

**SUNDAY**  
**OCTOBER**  
*25th, 2026*

**12PM - 4PM**

**\$5 ENTRY**

RECEIVE 10 FREE  
*Tricky Tray Tickets*  
WITH ENTRY FEE!

♥ ALL PROCEEDS GO TO ELKS CHARITIES ♥

|                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br><b>AMAZING VENDORS</b><br>Unique finds, handmade goods, & more! | <br><b>TRICKY TRAY RAFFLES</b><br>Great prizes & fun for everyone! | <br><b>SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY</b><br>Your support makes a difference! |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

♥ Thank you for supporting Elks Charities! ♥

# DAP CHILI COOK-OFF

**OCTOBER 11, 2026  
AT 3:00 PM  
EAST BRUNSWICK LODGE**

**IMPORTANT NOTE: BRING YOUR CHILI TO LODGE BY 2:45 PM**

**BRING YOUR BEST CHILI**

**1st PLACE GOLD LADLE**

BEST TRADITIONAL | SPICIEST | MOST UNIQUE

### COMPETITION DETAILS & RULES

1. Bring your chili to the lodge by 2:45 PM. Be hot.
2. Must be present to win.
3. Pro registration required.
4. Chili must be brought in a crockpot or half tray.
5. Tasting begins at 3:30 until 4:30 PM.
6. Judging starts promptly at 4:30 PM.
7. Sweet judges.
8. There will be a People's Choice award.

**JOIN US! ELKS MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS**

<https://floridamcaweb.com>

# CIGAR NIGHT

**A CHARITY EVENT FOR ELKS CHARITIES  
PRESENTED BY THE**

**MOTORCYCLE COMMITTEE VETERANS COMMITTEE**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD ELKS LODGE 2298  
1254 New Market Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080**

**TIME: 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM**

**COME JOIN US FOR A RELAXING EVENING OF CIGARS & FIRE!**

**DOOR PRIZES!**

**ADMISSION INCLUDES:**

- 2 Cigars
- 2 Beverage Tickets
- 3 Door Prize Tickets
- 1 Sausage & Peppers Sandwich

|                                                 |                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ADMISSION FOR SMOKERS:</b><br><b>\$30.00</b> | <b>ADMISSION FOR NON-SMOKERS:</b><br><b>\$20.00</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|

**PROCEEDS WILL GO TO BENEFIT ELKS CHARITIES.**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT PAULA JANECZEK  
Paulajaneczek412@gmail.com**

**The South Plainfield ELKS LODGE 2298**  
at 1254 New Market Ave, So. Plainfield, NJ  
presents:

# MURDER MYSTERY

*"Best Laid Plans"*

**Saturday, OCTOBER 3, 2026**  
— \$35 a person —  
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM  
SHOWTIME 7PM

**BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS,  
NO BEVERAGES PLEASE.**

**TICKETS FOR SHOW AVAILABLE  
IN SOCIAL QUARTERS.  
TICKETS SOLD AT DOOR,  
NIGHT OF EVENT TILL CAPACITY.**

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
THE DRUG AWARENESS COMMITTEE**

**PERFORMERS ARE  
THE MURDER MYSTERY COMPANY.**

**ANY QUESTIONS? CALL CHRIS 732-672-9829**

**WOODBIDGE ELKS 2116  
SPECIAL CHILDRENS  
COMMITTEE PRESENTS:**

# Paint & Fusion

**October 10<sup>th</sup> 2026**  
**\$50 per person**  
**7pm-9pm**

**665 Rahway Ave  
Woodbridge, NJ 07095**

**Tickets Available please Venmo:  
@wbgelks2116**

**Contact Amanda Kazlauskas 732-744-4310  
or at amandafiorillo1992@gmail.com**

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD ELKS LODGE 2298**  
**TAILGATE PARTY!**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026**  
**BAR OPENS: 9:00 AM**  
**LONDON CALLING 9:30 AM KICKOFF**



**BACK YOUR VEHICLE IN, POP YOUR TAILGATE & ENJOY THE GAME ON OUR PATIO!**  
**GRILL AVAILABLE - BRING YOUR OWN SUPPLIES!**  
**TAILGATE CONTINUES FOR BOTH LOCAL TEAMS AT 1:00 PM!**

**METUCHEN ELKS LODGE No. 1914**  
 BENEVOLENT & PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS  
 FOR ELKS MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS

**SIXTH ANNUAL**  
**CHILI COOK-OFF**

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 11 2026**

**TASTING FROM 2:00 - 4:00 PM**  
 LODGE OPENS AT 12:00 PM



**\$10 TO ATTEND & TASTE**  
**CONTESTANTS ENTER FREE**  
**HOT DOGS & FIXINGS SERVED ALL AFTERNOON**

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE NJ ELKS STATE PEER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

**CHILI ARTISANS - SIGN UP TO COMPETE**  
 Scan the code or visit [tinyurl.com/MetuchenChili](https://tinyurl.com/MetuchenChili)

**METUCHEN ELKS LODGE #1914**  
 87 MIDDLESEX AVENUE • METUCHEN, NJ 08840  
 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026 • TASTING 2:00-4:00 PM

**New Jersey Blood Services** **Blood Drive**

**Show up for those fighting cancer**  
 Share your strength. Give blood.



## Watchung Hills Elks 885

Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>

1:00 PM - 6:45 PM

1 Elks Trail Warren, NJ

To make an appointment: Scan the QR code  
 Appointments preferred and Walk-ins welcomed

<https://tinyurl.com/3w34ahyt>

All donors will receive a Lifesaver T-Shirt!

Call Kathleen Olesen if you have questions  
 or to make an appointment (732) 319-9734



800.933.BLOOD • [nybc.org](https://nybc.org)



### Prepare to donate

- Eat well and hydrate
- Bring a photo ID
- Feel good and symptom free
- Must be 17+ or 16 with parental consent form
- Meet minimum weight requirements

For full eligibility requirements and COVID-19 information, visit [nybc.org/eligibility](https://nybc.org/eligibility)





**FRANCESCO'S**  
PIZZERIA & RESTAURANT  
*Authentic Italian.  
Made with Passion.*



# DINE TO DONATE

## AT FRANCESCO'S



**20%** OF EVERY CHECK  
WILL BE DONATED  
the parade/convention committee



**OCTOBER 20, 2026**  
11AM - 9PM



**DECEMBER 7, 2026**  
11AM - 9PM



**FEBRUARY 16, 2027**  
11AM - 9PM

*Enjoy Live Entertainment by Carlo*  
**5 - 7:30PM**



INCLUDES FIXED MENU  
DINE IN - FULL MENU  
FOR TAKE OUT ONLY



MUST PRESENT  
THIS FLYER OR  
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# HALLOWEEN PARTY

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH, 2026**  
7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

**FOR TICKETS, CONTACT**  
**KAREN @ 908-337-3866**  
**JESSICA @ 732-718-3240**  
TICKETS \$25 IN ADVANCE  
\$30 AT THE DOOR

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT OUR  
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Open to Elks Members and Guests

## ***Parades – Tina Bartko***

Congratulations to South Plainfield on celebrating their township's 100th anniversary! It was wonderful to see our Elks walking proudly in their Labor Day Parade.

Participating in an upcoming event? Don't forget to send in your photos so we can share the celebration with the whole Lodge!

**Looking ahead:** The theme for our 2027 Wildwood Parade will be decided at the end of this month—keep an eye out for updates!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristina “Tina” Bartko  
Edison Elks #2487  
Central District Parades Chairperson



# Public Relations – George Michaels PER

Of late, we have been reminded quite often not to use AI versions of the Elks logo. AI is great for design but tends to have stupid attacks and will butcher our logo. Cut out AI generated logos and paste in genuine ones. They are readily available at ELKS.com.

AI can and will do entertaining things to the text in our material. Here is a quote from a recent flyer that appeared on Facebook: “A hearty miz of chicken wings...” OK, maybe a typo. Here is the next quote: “Served with your choice of fries, tatta toes, or onion rings. All smchvickes come with lartoos, tomata, and umbo. Add chese to fgthlled chicken for \$1.30.” What???

Please remember, proofread all your releases. We are all working on keeping and improving Elksdom’s image. Check your work.

As always, if you have any Public Relations concerns, have any questions, or wish us to publicize events and activities, please contact me..

Fraternally,  
George Michaels PER  
Central District Public Relations Chair



**ATTENTION ELKS LODGES**

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**FOR LODGE PURPOSES**

Lodges may use official emblems on Lodge stationery, Life Membership cards, window decorations, murals, monuments, and other materials strictly connected with Lodge purposes.

Elks marks may appear on advertising aimed at promoting Elks events, both public and private.

**GET STARTED TODAY**

**logos.elksonline.org**

## ***Ritual – Jami Gill PER***

As mentioned in the September Newsletter, beginning this year, ALL SITTING Exalted Rulers (New and PER) are eligible to compete in the Flag and Toast Contest. The Central District Flag and Toast Contest will be held on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at Piscataway lodge.

I would like to thank South Plainfield for their hospitality during the Ritual clinic on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Although not many Exalted Rulers were present, it was still an informative and worthwhile clinic.

Whether participating in the Flag and Toast Contest, Ritual Contest, Initiation of new members, Eleventh Hour Toast, Flag Day, or Elks' Funeral Service and Memorial Service, taking the time to prepare and practice helps preserve the traditions of our Order and ensures that these ceremonies are performed with the dignity and respect they deserve.

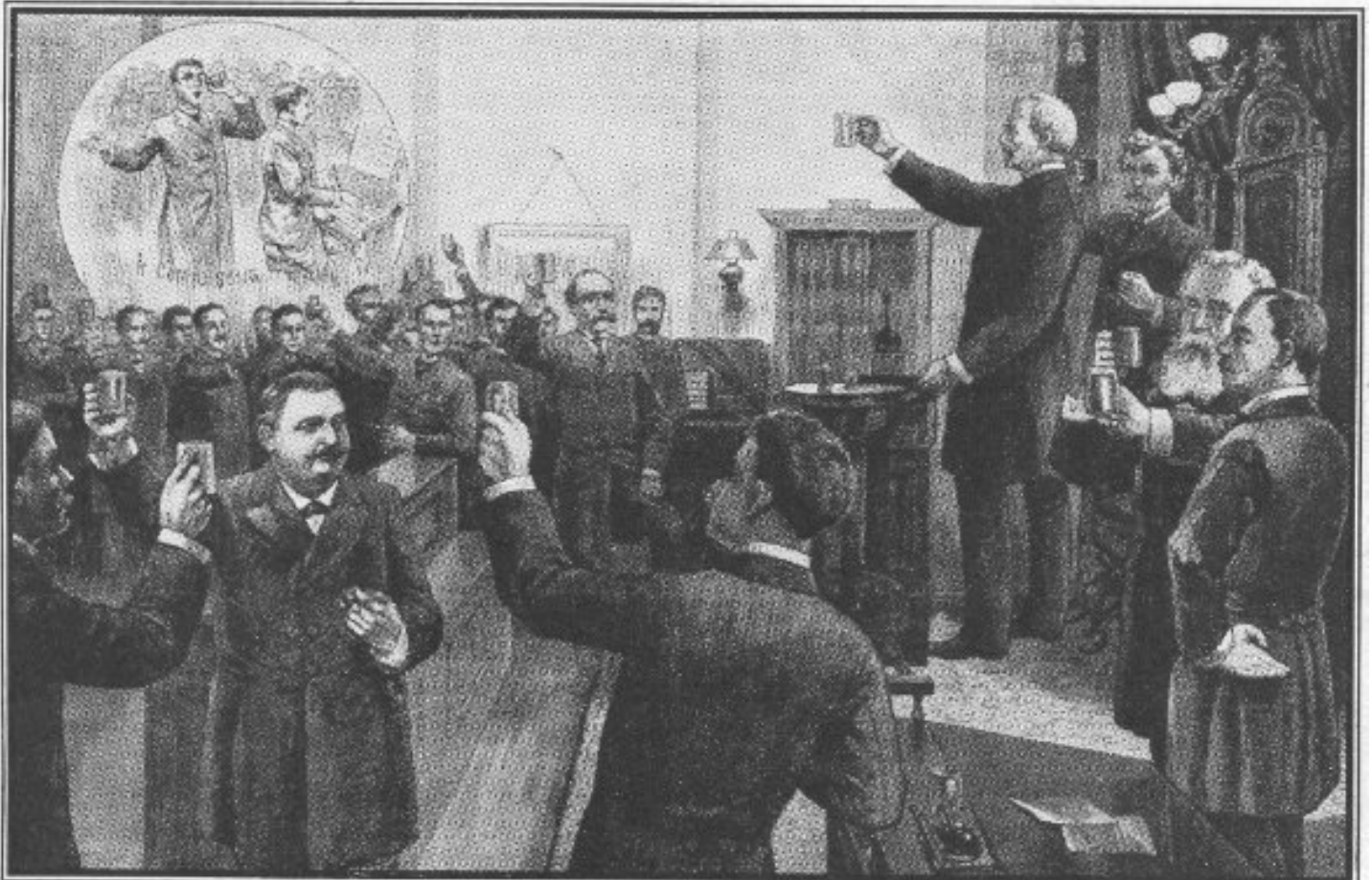
**“An Elk is never forgotten, never forsaken.”**

As always, if anyone needs assistance or has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am always happy to help in any way I can.

Fraternally,

Jami Gill, PER

Central District Ritual Chair



*The 11 o'clock toast to the absent: an Elk custom*

Culver

# Scholarship – Jerry Mercado PER

## Scholarship Update: Supporting Our Students' Futures

### Vocational Scholarships

For the 2026 season, **eleven students** were each awarded **\$1,000 Vocational Scholarships**. These scholarships support students pursuing trade and technical careers. We're proud of these hardworking recipients and look forward to announcing the **2026 winner** soon!

---

### New Jersey Elks Family Scholarship

The **New Jersey Elks Association** awarded a total of **\$49,500** in Family Scholarships this year!

- A total of **55 applicants** accepted scholarships.
- **4 recipients** were from our **Central District**—a decrease from 8 district winners last year!
- Each award was **\$900**.

 Congratulations to all the recipients and their families!

---

### Legacy Scholarships for 2026 – Applications Now Open!

The **2027 Legacy Awards** scholarship application is live.

**Deadline:** February 1, 2027, at **11:59 a.m. Pacific Time** (that's **2:59 p.m. Eastern Time**).

#### Eligibility Highlights:

- Open to high school seniors who are **children, grandchildren, step-children, step-grandchildren, or legal wards** of living Elks members.
- The sponsoring Elk must have joined **on or before April 1, 2024**, and be a **paid-up member** through **March 31, 2027**.
- **Great-grandchildren are not eligible.**
- Must apply **online only**.
- Standardized test scores (**ACT/SAT**) are **not required**.

✦ **Note:** If both a parent and grandparent are Elks, the student must apply through the **parent's** Lodge.

✦ Students can apply for multiple ENF scholarships but may only receive **one national award**.

**Legacy Award recipients** must complete **three instances of service** with an Elks Lodge during their four scholarship years.

Awards may only be used at **accredited U.S. schools, colleges, or universities**.

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## 2027 Most Valuable Student Scholarship – Now Open

The **2027 Most Valuable Student (MVS)** contest is underway!

**Application Deadline:** November 12, 2026

For the **2026 season**:

- **26 State Winners** were selected
- **1 recipients** received **\$30,000**
- **25 students** were awarded **\$4,000** each

Encourage eligible students to apply and take advantage of this life-changing opportunity!

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry B. Mercado, PER  
Scholarship District Chair



A banner with a dark teal background. On the left, a young woman in a graduation cap and gown holds a diploma. To her right, the text "LEGACY AWARDS APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. On the far right, a smaller white circle contains the text: "Exclusively for the children and grandchildren of dues-paying Elks, Legacy Awards applications close at 11:59 a.m. (noon) PT on February 1." The background is decorated with several overlapping circles in teal, maroon, and white.

• **LEGACY AWARDS APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!**

Exclusively for the children and grandchildren of dues-paying Elks, Legacy Awards applications close at 11:59 a.m. (noon) PT on February 1.



A banner with a dark teal background. On the left, the Elks National Foundation, Inc. logo is displayed, featuring a stylized elk head. Below the logo, the text "2027 MOST VALUABLE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN!" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. On the right, two young women in blue sweatshirts are smiling; one is holding a clipboard and pen, and the other is holding a white paper. The background is decorated with several overlapping circles in white, teal, and maroon.

 Elks National Foundation, Inc.

**2027 MOST VALUABLE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN!**

# ***Soccer Shoot – Karen Finney***

Our first Soccer meeting of the season was held on August 25<sup>th</sup> at Watchung Hills Lodge and was held in conjunction with Youth Activities and Drug Awareness. The following was discussed, and attendees were asked for the information to be brought back to their respective lodges:

**Local Shoots** - Now is a good time to start planning your local shoots. Reach out to your local soccer clubs, youth clubs and little leagues to try and recruit children to participate in your local lodge shoots. It is also important that if you are planning on having a shoot, please reach out to other lodges in our district to see if they are having a shoot and consider joining with them as we have in the past. Even if you only have one or two children, each one counts and will count towards our 100% participation (which is our ultimate goal).

With that being said, on September 18<sup>th</sup> Woodbridge lodge held their lodge shoot at Woodbridge High School Upper Turf Field. It was a great day with three other lodges joining them - Colonia, Carteret and Metuchen. There was a total of 81 children that competed to advance to the District Shoot which will be held on October 9<sup>th</sup> at Woodbridge High School Upper Turf Field with registration to begin at 6:00 p.m.

On Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> Watchung Hills lodge held their lodge shoot and had a total of seven children participate and all advanced to Districts on October 9<sup>th</sup>. On Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, Piscataway lodge held their lodge shoot at Piscataway High School football field. Set up started at 5:30 with registration beginning at 6:00. Joining Piscataway this year were Edison, New Brunswick and South Amboy. There was a total of 60 children that competed to advance to the District Shoot. We had volunteers from all lodges at this shoot and it ran very smoothly and was very organized.

On Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> South Plainfield Lodge had to unfortunately reschedule their shoot due to the Nor'easter that decided to make its way up the eastern seaboard. Fortunately, they were able to reschedule for Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Their Lodge Shoot will be held at the South Plainfield Soccer Club, registration to begin at 5:30pm. Great job everyone! Here's to another great year of Soccer!!!

**Mid Atlantic Ad Journal** – We will be looking for each lodge to place an ad or booster. At our next meeting, I will have copies of our ad journal forms. When you receive them, please make copies and hand them out at your lodge and send them to local businesses. We are looking for 100% participation again this year.

Our next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at New Brunswick lodge.

Fraternally,  
Karen Finney  
Central District Soccer Shoot Chair



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

The annual Ambassador Meet & Greet with the 2026-2027 ambassadors will take place on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at Woodbridge lodge starting at 2:00 PM. This year's area 4 Ambassador is Lonnie Mattox sponsored by Union Lodge 1583 and the alternate Ambassador will be Jack Hamilton sponsored by South Plainfield Lodge 2298. We wish them a great year and can't wait to see what it will hold for them.

Initial discussions have taken place regarding the 2027 Stephen J. Terrible Charity Ball. The Ball will take place on Saturday, April 17, 2027 at Woodbridge lodge, Additional details will follow soon.

The application process for the 2027 Camp Moore season will be starting soon. Please contact your SCC lodge chair if you know of anyone interested in attending camp next year. The special needs child must be at least seven years old.

Please Let VP Allen know if your Lodge will be making a donation to Camp Moore, MOM, or The Miracle Run at the Fall Conference. All lodge donations help to make sure we are able to keep the camp at no cost to all campers.

Please remember to check the district calendar for upcoming lodge and district SCC events and fundraisers.

Save the Date for these great Fundraisers:

- 11/21/26 Dueling Pianos at Carteret Lodge
- 10/17/26 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Party at Colonia Lodge
- 10/22/26 Paranormal Event at East Brunswick (Sold Out)

Colonia, Watchung Hills and Woodbridge will all be hosting Halloween Events for their Special Children. Please contact their SCC Chairs for more information.

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

After all, it's all for the kids.

Fraternally,

Jessica Dudik, PER

SCC District Chair



## ***Training – Christine Sauer PDD***

Hello all, I hope all of you had a pleasant close of summer. We are all now back to work on our committees and in the swing of planning events and fundraisers. As we start to spend more time in our social quarters, communication on our lodge bulletin boards and electronic billboards is very important to advertise and communicate to the lodge members as to what they can come out and support.

Not all members frequent the monthly lodge meetings, but this does not mean that they would not come out and support a cause. You, as a member and the officers of the lodge should be trained as to what should be posted on these bulletin boards. Remember its not only members that have free access to this communication tool but it is also available and seen by visiting non-members.

Hence, the best impression should always be foremost in all communications. Private information regarding a past lodge meeting such as minutes, financial or committee reports should never be posted. You can post that the Lodge passed a motion to sponsor an event but never can you post who proposed it, seconded it or opposed it. If your lodge provides aid to an individual, or if someone is requesting aid, never post a picture of them without their permission or if a minor, their legal guardian's permission. Always ask for someone's permission to post their picture in general and of course if the individual is a minor or disabled, their legal guardian should be asked in order to receive permission.

No advertising of goods and services by a member should be posted that identifies the person as a member of the lodge or order.

There has been quite a bit of misuse of official logos, the depiction of alcohol use in flyers etc. Although AI is a wonderful invention and our flyers/posters have ever looked so good, all flyers before released should be carefully checked for the infractions just mentioned. When in doubt check with the PR person in your lodge, house rules, the ER or the PERs. The more sets of eyes that can review your advertisement or conveyance of information will only insure your avoidance of a mistake.

Fraternally,

Christine Sauer PDD

Central District Chair Training



## ***Youth Activities – Maureen Chapman PER***

The Elks Day at the Somerset Patriots Game was September 12<sup>th</sup> and was a huge success. Our kids that participated in our Youth Activities Program were well represented and were able to go on the field before the game. Everyone who attended the game had a great time.

The State Tee It Up is scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup> at Cedar Creek Golf Course in Bayville. Registration is at 8:30am and the contest is from 9am-11am. Awards and lunch to follow at Lacey Elks Lodge. It is open to boys & girls up to the age of 18 years old. It is a chipping, putting and driving contest. There is no cost to the lodge or family. They can bring their own golf club if they have them, but we will have clubs for them to use if they need them and we will supply the golf balls.

Now that the school year has begun, please start thinking about the Karen Minutella Reading Initiative and the Student of the Month Program. This is a great way to show your community what the Elks have available for our children.

The Central District Youth Activities is doing a Candy & Pretzel Fundraiser again this year. I distributed the boxes at the district meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup> at New Brunswick Lodge. This was a combined meeting with Soccer Shoot & Drug Awareness.

Fraternally,

Maureen Chapman, PER

Central District Youth Activities Chair



# ***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 Marty Langan, Secy. Aimee Malave

## **Metuchen #1914**

87 Middlesex Ave. Rt. 27.

732-494-3557

Meetings 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 7:30pm

ER Maura McCunney Secy. Sharon Grice

## **New Brunswick #324**

40 Livingston Ave.

732-249-3420

Meetings 1st & 3rd Thursdays 7:30 pm

ER Bill 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