



East Brunswick Elks 2370 21 Oakmont Ave. PO Box 120 East Brunswick NJ 08816 732 821 - 9527

January 2026

Lodge Hours

Sundays 1P—Closing, Monday 6P - 10P
Wednesday 6P—10P, Friday 6P—10P

Kitchen is open Wednesday from 6P to 9P

Meetings are the 1st & 3rd Thursdays each month

Find us on Facebook @ East Brunswick Elks Lodge.



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

VISIT US AT:

EAST BRUNSWICK ELKS LODGE

N J STATE ELKS:

WWW.NJELKS.ORG

We now have our own Website that will be updated regularly

www.eastbrunswickelks.org

*Happy
New Year!*



From the Desk of Timothy Sexton, Exalted Ruler



Well, it certainly was a 'December to Remember' around the East Brunswick lodge this year. I'm reminded of the famous line in one of my favorite movies (Field of Dreams) "If you build it, they will come". After weeks of planning, model train layout construction, and food preparation by Brian and Jeanette Whary and their dedicated cohorts, the success of Breakfast with Santa was almost dashed by an early season snow storm. Having worked the day before to prepare food and elaborate decorations, would the significant downfall force a cancellation or greatly diminish attendance? No way!

The Kitchen crew braved the wintry conditions and started last minute prepping by 6 A.M. The snow plowing expertise of Jamesburg Elk Andy Tecrete cleared the road and parking lot and by 9 A.M. all was ready for Mr. and Mrs. Clause. First just a few, then a few more guests trickled in, then more and more friends braved the roads. By 10 o'clock, well over a hundred guests, many with eager children in tow were enjoying the wonderful breakfast spread, ladled out by our 4 young elves from the town's youth council who volunteered their time to assist us for this charity event. Diamond Dave, as he so often does, provided the seasonal music as he ably emceed the morning events high-lighted by the arrival of Santa and the lovely Mrs. Clause. The snow provided a stunning vista of winter's majesty as guests gathered on our new deck to take in the view over Farrington Lake. What can I say about this kind of dedication other than 'thank you all'.

Earlier this month, the Lodge leadership fulfilled its December 7th obligation to remember our brothers and sisters who are no longer with us. It was especially gratifying to see some of our newest members in attendance.

We followed up 'Breakfast w/Santa' with a highly successful and totally delicious "Chilli Cook-off" organized by Gail Ricart. Lee, Rachel and Julie were instrumental in facilitating a smooth-running event. Nine or ten lodge members used their culinary talents to vie for best chilli. The competition was fierce because all the entries showed off a talent for creating a pot worthy of praise. In the end, the judges awarded top honors to our very own Tiler, Ray Graulich, while two of our newest members garnered 2nd and third place medals for their entries.

As I write this on the first day of winter, I look forward to the upcoming festivities including our eagerly awaited New Year's Eve Gale to be followed by Joan Scadudo's annual roast pork dinner on the first. Here's wishing you all a joyous holiday season and may the new year bring you all the joys of family, friendship and fraternal fellowship.

P.S. I can't believe my chilli didn't win!



January 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|-----|
| | Happy New Year! | | Note: No lodge meeting January 1st. | 1 Joanies NYD Pork Dinner 3P | 2 Lodge opens 6P Diamond | 3 |
| 4 Lodge opens 1p Sunday Football | 5 Game Nite Lodge opens 6P Acoustic Guitar Jeff My- chalchyk Dist D/A Meets | 6 | 7 Lodge opens 6P Open Jam Member Orientation | 8 | 9 Lodge opens 6P | 10 |
| 11 Lodge opens 1p Sunday Football | 12 Game Nite Lodge opens 6P Blood Drive MCs meet | 13 Franchescos PER Fund- raiser all day. Bring flyer Rolling Thun- der Meets | 14 Lodge opens 6P | 15 Lodge meets 730P | 16 Lodge opens 6P Ladies Stem Nite | 17 |
| 18 Lodge opens 1p Sunday Football | 19 Game Nite Lodge opens 6P House Meeting 630P | 20 | 21 Lodge opens 6P | 22 | 23 Lodge opens 6P | 24 |
| 25 Lodge opens 1p Sunday Football New Member Initiation 12P | 26 Game Nite Lodge opens 6P | 27 | 28 Lodge opens 6P | 29 | 30 Lodge opens 6P | 31 |

Officers 2025/2026

Exalted Ruler Timothy Sexton
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Esteemed Leading Knight Scott Kelliher
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Esteemed Loyal Knight Brian Whary
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Esteemed Lecturing Knight Gary Kelliher
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Secretary Joan Scaduto, PVP
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Treasurer Peter Bia
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5-Year Trustee Jennifer Hammill PER
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4-Year Trustee Anthony Buccigrossi
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3-Year Trustee George Michaels PER
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2-Year Trustee Lynne Bia
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1-Year Trustee Melissa George
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Chaplain Kathy Leonard
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Esquire Gail Ricart PVP
gailfirkser@gmail.com
Inner Guard Lee Lubinski
leez.email.address@gmail.com
Tiler Ray Graulich J
deanna1ray21@verizon.net

January Birthdays

1 – Jeffrey Scott
1 - Carol Shihadeh
5 – Leon Kanopka
11 – James Bruno
12 – Rebecca Zinnikas
15 – Anthony John Morris
16 – Debi Carlin
18 – Dominic DeCaro
18 – Linda Glass
20 – Emanuel Alvarez
21 – Barbara Tidona
23- Steve Ray
24 – Kathleen Hyland
24 - Harold VanDerploeg
25 – Lynne Bia
25 – Jason Kondrk
25 - Rosemary Simmons
30 – Mary Tarrant



House Committee

Members of the Committee

Colleen Murphy
Jennifer Hammill PER
Jeannie Burke
Gary Kelliher
Gail Ricart PVP
Andrea Evans
Laura DeCandia
Scott Kelliher
Kathy Hyland
Deanna Burns
Judy LaPelosa
Rosemarie Simmons
Darell Sorge

Come join us for your birthday celebration. Bring proof of your birth month & your membership card to get your free drink once during your birthday month.

Upcoming Events

Jan 1 2026 - Joanie's New Years day Roast pork dinner 3-6pm Flyer attached.

Jan 13 - PER Dine to donate at Francescos Flyer attached.

Jan 16 - Ladies Stem Night. Details to follow.

Jan 25 - New Member Initiation 12p

Feb 14 - Valentine's dinner dance 6-11pm. Cost \$20.00. Details to follow. (See Flyer)

March 15 - St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef dinner 2-6pm. Fast Forward Duo will be entertaining us.

\$20.00 for a platter or \$15.00 for a sandwich. See Flyer

March 28 - Installation of Officers 5pm. Details to follow.



We are having a book sale to raise money for our charities. Anyone wishing to purchase books may come see our selection. Hardcover books are \$3 & softcover Books are \$1.

Secretary: Joan Scaduto, PVP

We have 11 new applications for membership: Kevin BiFulco, Peter O'Malley, Daniel R. Dougert and Pierrette Gerbavac proposed by Debbie Stansbury; Robert Ward proposed by David Lonski; Richard Venuto proposed by DeAnna Burns; John E. Larsen, Jr. and Suzanne Applegate proposed by Laura DeCandia; and Candace Smith, John Helstowski and Jennifer Semulka proposed by Jennifer Hammill. We will have our next orientation on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

We initiated 15 new members on November 23rd: Armand Graziani, Robert Sodon, Russell Palumbo, Leo James Geib, Christian Cardelfe, Rich Ruff, Ronald Lazar, Timothy Sweeney, Raymond Mangels, Bruce Sigman, Angelo Zecca, Lori Zimmerman, Linda Starosciak, Frank Starosciak, and Joseph Kincaid. Please welcome them to our lodge and also welcome a transfer demit from Jamesburg Lodge, Donna Zielinski.

We will have our next initiation of new members on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at 12:00 noon with hospitality following. Please try to attend to welcome them into our lodge. Members are the lifeblood of our organization. I encourage all of you to ask your family and friends to join our Elks family.

Happy and Healthy New Year to all!

ENF Grant/Per Capita Chairperson: Joan Scaduto PVP

We have already delivered clothing and needed items to the veterans with the Freedom Grant. We are now working on the Spotlight Grant and Beacon Grant thanks to Colleen Murphy and her committee. The Gratitude Grant is being used to send 10 students to Peer Leadership Conference as well as two advisors.

Remember – contributions to Elks National Foundation are easy to do. Just go to elks.org and apply to be a Fidelity member (under Elks National Foundation). Any questions, please see me.

Public Relations : Melissa George, chair

A Happy & Healthy New Year to all! We are looking forward to the new year to increase awareness for our lodge even more. We are working on getting an Instagram page up and running for our younger members. We welcome any & all members who have an interest in promoting the Elks & its charities to contact Melissa George.

**Membership:** Melissa George, chair

Happy New Year! Our committee is already in full swing for the new year. January 7th is our first new member orientation for 2026. We also have a new member initiation scheduled for Sunday, January 25 at noon. All members in good standing may attend these events.

We are looking for additional members for our committee. We even have some help from home jobs available. Contact me for more information.

Finally, we are looking for help with hospitality for upcoming initiations. We are looking for cooks, set up and clean-up crews.



House: Colleen Murphy, chair

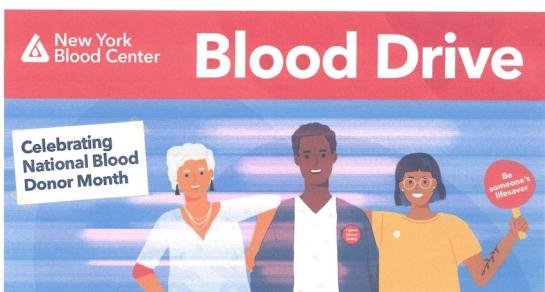
Thank you to all of our lodge members that contributed to the Aldersgate Food Pantry. Our Giving Tree was a tremendous success



Special Needs: Kathy Hyland, chair

The 2026 Calendar Raffles are here! The raffle tickets are \$20 each with numerous chances to win. If you are interested in purchasing a raffle, please contact me at kehyland8@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting children with disabilities.

Unless Specified on the Calendar
OPEN JAM IS EVERY 1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY NITE
DIAMOND DJ DAVE IS BACK ON EVERY 1ST & 3RD



Monday, Jan 12th
2:30 PM – 7:00 PM
East Brunswick
Elks Lodge

21 Oakmont Ave, East Brunswick, NJ-08816

Hosted by Laura DeCandia and Colleen Murphy from East Brunswick Elks

To make an appointment visit:

Please Scan QR Code



Or Visit: www.nybc.org/drive

Sponsor Code: 13811

Donors over 76 years and older can now give blood without a doctor's note.

One Pint Help Saves Three Lives!

800.933.BLOOD - nybc.org





Drug Awareness: Rosemary Simmons Chair, Gail Ricart VP Region One Co-Chair

Rosemary Simmons, our Lodge Chair for Drug Awareness, is pleased to announce that she and Joan will serve as an advisors to the Peer Leadership program for ten students. This program will be held over the weekend of February 5-8 at the Ocean Hotel in Long Branch, New Jersey.

East Brunswick Lodge will also provide support to the students throughout the event. The program will include a variety of activities, such as seminars, dances, breakfasts, luncheons, and dinners.

On December 16, 2025, the Lodge hosted a Drug Awareness fundraiser chili contest. A panel of judges selected the chili that will advance to the district competition at Colonia Lodge on January 28, 2026. Ray emerged victorious, securing first place. Russ secured second place and the People's Choice Award. Adam secured third place.



We extend our sincere gratitude to all individuals who contributed chili to the contest. The chili was exceptional, and we are deeply appreciative of all competitors who participated in this annual event.

Additionally, we would like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of those who assisted with the chili contest. Your support was instrumental in the event's resounding success. We would be honored if you could attend the district competition on January 28 at Colonia Lodge to support Ray. Your presence would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support and dedication to Drug Awareness.

During our Lodge meeting on the evening of December 16, 2025, we gathered in a spirit of reverence and unity as we undertook the meaningful task of restoring our cherished emblem—the magnificent elk—to its rightful place in our beautifully adorned hall. This stunning creature, revered as our national symbol, encapsulates the very essence of Elk lodges, embodying not just strength, but also the deep bonds of community that connect us all.



Elks, with their graceful movements and majestic presence, roam freely in the wild, often forming closely knit herds that reflect a profound sense of solidarity and resilience. These gentle giants safeguard one another, showcasing a remarkable spirit of camaraderie and guardianship that resonates deeply within our own gatherings.

As we welcomed our esteemed advisors, we stood in awe beneath the imposing antlers of the elk; an inspiring emblem of protection and wisdom. It is imperative that we honor the elk and its profound significance, cherishing what we hold dear in Elkdom and ensuring that we never take for granted the values it represents.

A heartfelt thank you to all our members for their unwavering support for Jack the elk, who continues to symbolize our shared commitment and aspirations.

Convention/Parades: Laura Good, Convention chair

Happy New Year everyone.

It's time to get the ball rolling for this year's Wildwood convention. The dates are June 4th to the 7th 2026. We don't have the cost yet. I am still talking with the Bolero. The rooms did go up. As soon as we have the cost and payment plan set up we will get it out to you in a blast notification.

The rooms are limited, so please get your reservation in as soon as possible when the information is available. We will have a sign up sheet at the bar so we have an idea of who wants to go to Convention and who is marching in the parade. The size of the shirt and hat you will need. I hope everyone has a wonderful New Year Laura Good, Convention Chair

We will have two fundraisers for convention and parades: Valentine's Day dinner dance and a Saint Patrick's Day.

East Brunswick PER Assoc: Gail Ricart, PVP chair

PER Association Meeting Schedule: Next meeting is February 2nd, 2026

PER Association Fundraiser: A fundraiser for the PER Association will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 from 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM at Francesco's in Milltown. A 15% donation from each check will be made to the PER Association. Kindly bring your flyer or wear an elk shirt to the event. Please inform your server that you are attending the fundraiser for the PER Association.

Lodge/PER Meeting: PER's are running the scheduled lodge meeting for Thursday, February 3rd, 2026. All PER members to be in state attire.



EAST BRUNSWICK ELKS LODGE #2370

FUNDRAISER at FRANCESCO'S

23 North Main Street, Milltown, NJ

Sponsored by our P.E.R. Association

JANUARY 13, 2026

15% Of every check will be donated to East Brunswick Elks Charities

(***Includes Lunch and Dinner menu items***)

MUST PRESENT THIS FLYER TO YOUR SERVER

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT GAIL RICART @ (732)609-4936

If you would just like to make a donation please mail in this flyer along with your donation to:

East Brunswick Elks Lodge #2370

P.O. Box 21, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Name: _____ Phone# _____

(Make checks payable to East Brunswick Elks Lodge #2370)

EB Elks PER Fundraiser

Nite @ **Francesco's** in Milltown! Bring this flyer so the lodge will get credit. Tell your friends too.

This helps support your local community too!



Americanism: Brian Whary, chair



Breakfast with Santa PJ Party was a great success. This Americanism sponsored event was a resounding success despite the heavy snowfall Saturday night into Sunday morning. We ran the event a bit longer than planned to give people time to dig out and get their parties to the Lodge. The Americanism Train was a hit with both the adults and the children. I am quite sure next year will be even bigger than this past event. I am waiting on the final numbers from the Sunday event, but I do believe that our committee raised some much-needed funds for future Americanism projects.



We had a large contingent of Special Needs Children at the event and Santa gave each child a new donated book and some stuffed animals one of our members was able to secure. We also had a group of five volunteers from their East Brunswick Youth Council, who acted as food servers for the event. These volunteers were excellent, and their Chaperone Martin agreed they can be utilized at all future Elks events where alcohol is not served. We plan on using them very soon as they need to accrue a total number of volunteer hours for their resumes.

We received a total of six essays by way of our Elks #2370 member contact Dana Zimbicki, president at the East Brunswick Education Association. We received one, 5th grade submission, three 6th grade submissions and two from the 8th grade. I have chosen one essay from each division as better than the others and will be submitting them to the district on Jan. 19th.

We are still actively working with one of our members (Dave Lonski) to get more information on our one submission for Citizen of the Year 2026. I should have a full progress update before the January meeting.

Regarding Flag retirements: We have a fire pit and our local Scout Troop has done this event for several iterations. We can do it again unless another lodge wants to step up.

East Brunswick 2370 Upcoming Events Get your reservations in.





Breakfast With Santa PJ Party



Santa came by Train!!



Santa & his elves did a great job!



Like the Elks way: Caring is Sharing
What a Season of Giving it's Been!

Volunteers from Project Gift! Rob Zuckerman stopped by as he traveled around in the snow to support various local causes. One of which is Project Gift, he is president of the Mayor's Charity Fund in EB. Thanks for stopping by & supporting EB Elks.



Government Relations: George Michaels, PER, chair

Committee chairs help your lodge and the Elks order do our work. At least once a month, submit a government relations form. The form is simple and only takes a few seconds to complete.

Grand Lodge uses these reports to justify our charitable work, and to keep our tax-exempt status. Without these reports our status could be in jeopardy, which would endanger our existence, and the good we do.

Fill the form out when you complete your after-event report. Fill out the form when you prepare your report for a lodge meeting. Fill out your government relations report when you do anything.

If you are chair of a charitable committee, report when you go to a state or district meeting. Did you go to an event outside the lodge for your committee, or hold an event, then report it. Did you come to a lodge meeting and give your committee report? That falls under your charitable activities, so fill out a form.

Turn your forms in at least once a month to me or put them in the Trustees mailbox at the lodge. Forms are available online, or on the forms rack in the entranceway. If you need any assistance or questions, contact me. Let us keep our order functioning and doing our charitable tasks.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS: George Michaels, PER chair

Please give your Government Relations forms to me within 2 weeks from having your event. The report is easy to do. I always have the forms with me at meetings. I will try to get a few in the box upstairs. The information needed is as follows:

of Elks

of helpers

of Elk miles

of helper miles

of Elk hours

of helper hours



Going forward, please submit your Government Relations reports to George Michaels, PER within two weeks of your event or meeting.

It takes a Team! Let's Grow Together!

Time to Renew



Adobe Stock 100002229

Thank you for all who supported this past year. Please consider purchasing one for 25/26 year as a way to support your lodge.

The Boosters/"In Memory of" loved ones, will be \$10 annually. The Business Card ads will be \$50 annually. Please consider asking your friends, co-workers & family to purchase an ad or booster.

If anyone knows of a business looking to advertise on a digital ad board, why not suggest our boards? Digital ads are \$200 annually.

All Forms can be found in the lodge foyer.

East Brunswick Boosters 2023/2024

Melissa George & George Michaels

Annie Brucato

Scott Kelliher

Veronica Kadash

Business Card Ad



"In Memory of"

Lynne Bia's parents: Edward & Barbara Melchior

Melissa George: Richard A. Kadash (Father)

Gail Ricart: Mom & Dad Aziz

Vanessa Young: Joy Ann Young

Gary Kelliher: Abby

Joe Gaston: George & Barbara Gaston

Joe Krisza: Charles & Julie Krisza

Joan Scaduto: Francis Paul Scaduto

Gail Ricart: Dawn & David Ricart

Alice Leonhardt: Our Dear Departed Exalted Rulers



East Brunswick Elk “Lodge on the Lake” Banquet Hall.
Member & Non Member pricing. For more info contact
Laura @ kuz619@msn.com or 732 715-0777





Committee Chairs

Americanism: Brian Whary

cptwhary1@optonline.net

Banquet Chair: Laura DeCandia

kuz619@msn.com

Bar Manager: Judy Lapalosa

Judy: Jlap49@aol.com

Bldgs. & Grounds:

Drug Awareness: Rosemary Simmons

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Communications: Melissa George

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Convention: Laura Good

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Feed the Hungry: Colleen Murphy

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Financial Advisor: Pete Bia

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Govt. Relations: George Michaels PER

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Hoop Shoot: Anthony Buccigrossi

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Soccer Shoot: Anthony Buccigrossi

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Pull Tabs: Annie Brucato

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Internet/Webmaster: Robert Rafano

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Kitchen Chair:

Lodge Activities:

Membership: Melissa George

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ENF: Joan Scaduto

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Motorcycle Chair: Gary Kelliher

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Natl Vet Svcs/AOH: Gail Ricart, PVP

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Newsletter: Annie Brucato

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Parades: Gail Ricart PVP

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Ritual: Joan Scaduto PVP

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Scholarships: Tim Sexton

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Special Needs: Kathleen Hyland

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Youth Activities: Anthony Buccigrossi

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Justice: David Lonski

dlonski@ssndl.com

Mediator: Andrea Evans

AKEvans@aol.com

ALL THINGS BAR

Regularly Scheduled Open

Monday 6PM

Wednesday 6p

Friday 6p

Sunday 1p

On Lodge Meeting Nights Bar is open before & after meetings.