As this is my last article as Wisconsin Vice President Central District, I would like to pause to thank all the members of our district for all their hard work to promote the Wisconsin Elk programs. You have made me look good through all your great works and I am proud for all that you have accomplished. Kathy and I would also like to thank everyone for your support during our cancer journey. We have amazing friends in the WEA and we are truly blessed.

Space does not allow me to expound on all the good works of the Central District, I shall instead summarize those that have caught my eye:

**Baraboo:** Lodge continues to grow in membership.  Our monthly basket raffle program is beyond any expectations where members donate a major gift and we raffle the basket. To date approaching $8000 has been awarded to local charities. We held our 105th children’s Christmas Party with 200 stockings handed out by Santa. Lodge started Hoop Shoot after a many year absence and had 28 participants. Monthly Euchre tournaments are doing well. Bar and high top tables were refurbished.

**Beaver Dam:**   Continues to hand out information pamphlets at city events. Lodge held a Super bowl raffle and distributed 300 Christmas boxes to area needy. Ice skate loaner program is ready to go

**Neenah/Menasha** : Lodge held a Scare Away Hunger costume party with profits going to local food pantry. Holiday and ugly sweater contest with a 50/50 raffle was held. New Year’s party was well attended. Lodge is planning other events in months to come. Boys and Girls Club activities and Veteran events are always a priority.

**Oshkosh:**  New membership growth is a priority and is doing very well. Lodge used $2500 from Gratitude Grant to purchase books for a local school. Rental of ballroom to cornhole league has netted new interest in the Elk lodge with new applications received. Meat raffles are doing well and, guests of members are encouraged to attend. 250 Christmas baskets were delivered to needy families. Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed building is a priority.

**Portage**: Monthly fish fry’s are very well attended and applications are being turned in at these events. Participated in Holiday Parade with Share-A Soup and invited guests. Lodge filled and donated 100 Christmas baskets for those in need. Craft Fair was held in the lodge with 15 booths. Euchre tournament generated a donation to a local addiction /mental health group. Dart league was started.

**Sheboygan:** Lodge held annual Adopt a Family programwhere 25 families were awarded $10000 in gifts, blankets, pillows, and a week’s worth of groceries were awarded. Lodge continues to present Student of the Month awards with certificate and $200 cash each student. 101 lodge members rang bells for the Salvation Army. Over 100 coats were given to Coats for Kids drive in Sheboygan. Lodge hosts bowling for two high school classes of students with disabilities.

**Watertown:**  Watertown Elks held breakfast with Santa with 210 in attendance. Over 500 people were served free dinner on Christmas Day. DAP local cable TV Show is ongoing. Sheepshead, bags league, pool league and open MIC. nights keep lodge well attended. Guitars for Vets program has passed 11 lessons. Warmer weather will bring back fishing and golf events. Many projects to improve and upgrade lodge are in the works.

As stated in my opening remarks I am so proud of the Central District accomplishments. You will always be my friends.

God Bless All Of You!

Jim Francisco