



# The Bugle

## Summer 2023



**State President  
Karl Hanke and Annie**



**State President Elect  
Pat Moran and Pam**



**WISCONSIN ELKS ASSOCIATION  
STATE OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**

Karl Hanke (715) 573-2461

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Pat Moran (847) 732-3810

**VICE-PRESIDENT—NORTHWEST**

**VICE-PRESIDENT—NORTHEAST**

Solomon King (715) 212-4174

**VICE-PRESIDENT—CENTRAL**

Ryan Swantz (608) 999-0246

**VICE-PRESIDENT—SOUTH**

Manny Salinas III (414) 940-1240

**SECRETARY**

Ken Johnson (715) 355-0758

**TREASURER**

Jeffrey Langton (262) 271-7902

**CHAPLAIN**

Rev. Michael Hackbarth (920) 948-9500

**TILER**

Nikki Shannon (608) 697-5171

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

Donald Behnke (920) 923-0707

**INNER GUARD**

Gina Staskal (920) 960-1821

**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Patrick Buck (920) 731-7692

**HISTORIAN**

Jerry Brien (920) 766-2649

**TRUSTEES**

(3 YEAR TERMS)

**B.O.D. / Chairman**

David DeRosier (2024) S (262) 253-9154

**Secretary**

Rob Radig Sr. (2023) AT LG (920) 344-8093

Jaye Franklin (2025) NW (715) 384-8785

Ray Dabler (2025) NE (715) 551-8414

Tony Voulgaris (2024) C (920) 410-6176

**GRAND LODGE CONVENTIONS**

2023 – July 2-5, Minneapolis, MN

2024 – June 30-July 3, Austin, TX

2025 – June 29 – July 2, Kansas City MO

2026 – July 5-8, Chicago, IL

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Advisory: Sam Demmin

Auditing: Cindy Whalen

Credentials & Elections: Marla Gygli

Resolutions & Laws: Ryan Swantz

Membership & Lapsation: Landry Long

Lodge Development: Jeff Boss

Business Practices: Michael Roth

Publicity & Public Relations: Aaron Holbrook

Conferences & Convention: Ken Johnson

Lodge Activities: Kathy Francisco

Officer Training: Rick Miller

ER/Leading Knight Advisory: Bruce Conard

Drug Awareness: Christine Crum

Ritualistic Exemplification: Ben Godlewski

Grand Lodge Attendance: Jason Somers

Elks National Service: Mike Lebeit

Americanism: Brian Jeanty

Elks National Foundation: Don Behnke

Government Relations: Gina Staskal

Hoop Shoot: Eugene Wusterbarth

ENF Scholarships: Jan Doleschal

Committee for the Disabled: Nate Levenhagen

Youth Activities: Jeff Miller

U.S. Constitution: Pat Buck

Elks Major Project: Leah Kostuck

Recreation at State Convention: Doug Vavricka

Bowling: Gary Cernoch

Golf: Don Behnke

Curling: Carolyn Mickelson

Legalized Gaming: Kevin Lonien

Accident Prevention: Jim Staskal

Benevolent Fund Raising: Dan Crum

Trustee Training: Pat Moran

**STATE MEETINGS**

9/14 to 9/17 2023 Fall Conference: Appleton

2/15 to 2/18 2024 Mid-winter Conf:

5/2 to 5/5 2024 Spring Convention:

**BUGLE DEADLINES**

Fall: Aug. 1

Mid-winter: Nov. 1

Spring: March 1

EMAIL ALL CONTENT TO

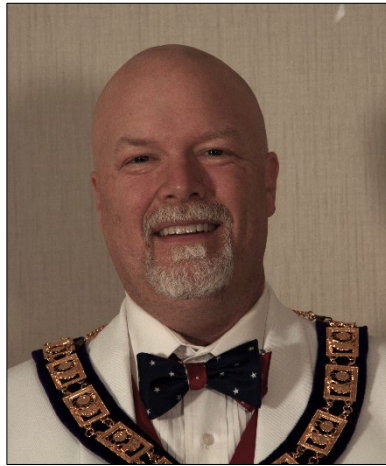
[wisconsinelks@gmail.com](mailto:wisconsinelks@gmail.com)

Editor: Aaron Holbrook, 920-210-3178

# It's a great day to be an Elk!

Greetings everyone, it's hard to believe and an incredible honor to be writing to you as your State President. My motto this year is "Growth Through Pride", and we are off to a great start!

I have set 7 goals for the state.



1. **ENF** – Each Lodge to reach the Grand Exalted Ruler's goal and a state total of at least \$110,000. *Donations have been great so far and if each lodge holds a fundraiser or a 50/50 raffle, we will be able to reach this goal. And don't forget about the Fidelity Club.*

2. **Benevolent Fund** – Raise a state total of \$27,700 (\$4.00 per person) *Again, the donations have been good, but we need to work a little harder to reach this goal.*

3. **State Major Project** – Increase attendance at the three Elks events at Camp: Camp cleanup, Elks Day, and the Pancake breakfast. *I was incredibly proud of all the members from around the state that helped with Camp clean up day in May. Lots of cleaning and outside projects got done.*

4. **Conferences and Convention** – Increase attendance at both conferences and convention including the Saturday night meal and Sunday morning General session.

5. **Calendar** - Create a WEA Google calendar, including all State, and lodge events. I am happy to say that *the calendar is up and running and the information being shared is fantastic.*

6. **Committees** – Have each Committee create a 1-2 paragraph description of what their committee does and send it to me so I can post it on Facebook. This will help promote attendance at your meetings during conferences and convention. *Don't forget that all committee descriptions are due by July 10.*

7. **Membership** - Have a membership increase of at least 40 members. *I have never seen and felt such amazing pride in our members. It is with this pride and enthusiasm that I am sure we as a state will reach this goal.*

I am very thankful to the following members for stepping up and taking on larger roles this year:

Jeannie Lange – Protocol director

James Francisco – State Grant Coordinator

Nikki Shannon – State Calendar moderator

Nichole Bourassa – Facebook moderator

Annie and I look forward to working with each of you this year. If you have any questions or thoughts, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Karl Hanke, State President

**"Growth through Pride"**

# A letter from the First Lady

Hello Wisconsin friends,  
I hope this letter finds you all well. It has been quite a year! We have grown our friendships throughout the state and in Elksdom. The kinship and respect we have shared as we traveled with Dave and Kathy Hagen are beyond measure. They have not only become family, they have also been great mentors and leaders. We hope we can continue to grow the excitement and enthusiasm for our brotherhood and sisterhood as we continue our year.

I have had to face some personal challenges these past several months. Through it, I have proven to myself that faith, determination, positive support, and friendships can give you strength when you might not feel brave. I thank you all.

It will hopefully not only be a year of change and growth, but a year of renewal.

That being said, starting in the fall when we have the honor of hosting the Grand Exalted Ruler and his wife, we will be combining the



ladies and associate luncheon! The luncheon will include the drawings for the Benevolent fund raising raffle baskets and introducing our Grand First Lady to the state of Wisconsin. Everyone is welcome to this luncheon member or not and we hope to see you there! Speaking of the Benevolent fundraising baskets, I would like to challenge every lodge to donate a basket or item to this fundraiser. If you have donated in the past, I would also encourage you to continue to do so. More prizes means more winners which means more money for our charity.

We look forward to each of our visits this year and traveling with Pat and Pam Moran, your President and First Lady elect, and all those candidates making a future run for that position. Thank you all for this opportunity and your support for Karl and I, as we look forward to a positive future for Wisconsin. It is with that encouraging Elk energy that I hope to continue to be an inspiration and positive role model to you all.

Gratefully yours,

Annie M. Hanke

First Lady of Wisconsin Elks Association

## Wisconsin Elks President Calendar 2023-2024

June 10 Appleton visit and Flag Day parade  
June 24 Camp Wawbeek Elks Day and Portage visit  
June 26 State golf tournament: Eau Claire  
June 29 - July 5 Grand lodge – Minneapolis  
July 15 Janesville visit  
July 28-30 State Campout Plymouth Rock  
Aug. 4 Ashland  
Aug. 5 Superior  
Aug. 11 Eau Claire  
Aug. 12 Chippewa Falls  
Aug. 13 Rice Lake  
Sept. 8 Watertown  
Sept. 14-17 Fall Conference - Appleton  
Sept. 30 Waukesha  
Oct. 1 Pancake breakfast at Camp Wawbeek  
Oct. 7 Madison  
Oct. 13 Neenah

Oct. 14 Marshfield  
Oct. 20 Kaukauna  
Oct. 21 Oshkosh  
Nov. 4 Baraboo  
Dec. 1 Green Bay  
Dec. 2 Oconto  
Dec. 9 Antigo  
Jan. 27 Milwaukee  
Feb. 3 Beaver Dam  
Feb. 9-10 Wausau- Hoop Shoot  
Feb. 15-18 Mid-winter conference - Green Bay  
March 2 Marinette  
March 8 Manitowoc  
March 9 Sheboygan  
March 22 Stevens Point  
March 23 Wisconsin Rapids  
April 12-13 Platteville



# A message from Wisconsin's sponsor

Greetings to all:

Congratulations to Karl and Annie Hanke who were installed as State President and First Lady of the Wisconsin Elks Association last month at the Spring Convention. We wish you a successful year serving the WEA, and I look forward to working with you and your slate of officers. I would also like to congratulate Pat Moran, our new State President-Elect. This begins an extra busy year for he and Pam as they travel and prepare for their 2024-2025 year of service. I would also like to congratulate all of the other newly installed State Officers. Wisconsin Elks Association has a great team!!

June has arrived which signals the Grand Lodge Convention is rapidly approaching. As I write this article, the final preparations are being made for our National Convention which is in Minneapolis, Minnesota this year. We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our Order and the opportunity to be together again with our

Elks family. As you read this article, we trust all that traveled to and participated in the Grand Lodge Convention had a safe trip and great time. We hope you came home renewed in your passion and dedication for the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks as we know you are! Let's bring the excitement you are feeling from attending the Convention back home to your local Lodges, Districts and State during this new Lodge year.

In closing, have a wonderful and active summer but continue to be vigilant with your health and safety. Let's all work together for the betterment of our communities and always remember, *Elks Care, Elks Share*

God Bless,



F. Louis Sulsberger  
Past Grand Exalted Ruler  
Wisconsin State Sponsor

## Wisconsin Elks History-Grand Lodge

The upcoming Grand Lodge Convention marks the third trip to Minneapolis. The convention was previously held there in 1897 and 2004. Wisconsin has hosted the Grand Lodge twice. Both were held in Milwaukee in 1906 and 1933. Wisconsin has also had two Grand Exalted Rulers. Thomas B. Mills from Superior Lodge 403 served our order in 1912. Charles E. Broughton from Sheboygan Lodge 299 served our order in 1946. Will our current State President Karl Hanke someday be the next to serve from Wisconsin?

PSP Jerry Brien, Wisconsin Elks State Historian



## From State President Elect

Thank you for electing me to the position of WEA State President Elect at the May Convention in Appleton.

It will be an honor to serve you this year and next year as the WEA State President for 2024-25. Pam and I look forward to all the upcoming visits in the State with President Karl and First Lady Annie. It will be nice to revisit all the Lodges again and to renew friendships as well as make new ones. Each of your lodges are unique and have special things about them but one thing for certain is all the Lodges are united in Elksdom. Let's share our ideas between Lodges so we can all be successful in the next year.

As I stressed during my campaign let's make sure that we all take advantage of the CIP Grants from Grand Lodge as well as our WEA State Grant. Let's use them to help others in our communities and above all, let's not forget our Veterans who have provided us with the Freedoms we now enjoy.

If you need help, please let me know. Please don't forget the State Grant Coordinator Jim Francisco of Baraboo who can help you as well.

Please keep up the great work you all do for your communities.

Pam and I look forward to seeing you all at the next Conference in Fall and as well as all the individual Lodge visits. Safe travels to all and see you soon !

And as Karl says – “ It's a great Day to be an Elk ! “

Fraternally

Pat Moran, WEA State President Elect

# Leaders are lifters

*The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD,  
Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.  
Proverbs 21: 1 NKJV*

With good leadership, everything improves. Leaders are “lifters.” They push the thinking of their teammates beyond old boundaries of creativity. They elevate others’ performance - making them better than they have ever been. The leader improves people’s confidence in themselves and others. While managers are able to maintain a team at its current level, leaders are able to “lift” a team to a higher level than they had ever reached before. The key to that is working with people and bringing out their best.

For example:

- Leaders transfer ownership for work to those who execute the work.
- Leaders create an environment where each team member wants to be responsible.
- Leaders coach the development of personal capabilities.
- Leaders learn quickly and encourage others to learn efficiently also.

I am sure that the constructs listed above are “at work” in our respective lodges. The growth of future leadership hinges on developing these “lifter” traits in our members. Good leadership contributes mightily to a healthy and growing lodge.

Remember, God loves you, and so do I.  
Blessings to all, Rev. Mike

## Sign up for Google Calendar

Would you like access to all State and Lodge events and times at your fingertips? Then contact Nikki Shannon [nshannon10@gmail.com](mailto:nshannon10@gmail.com) or Karl Hanke [karlwiolk@gmail.com](mailto:karlwiolk@gmail.com) to get access to the new State Online Calendar.

## Learn Who's Who in Elkdom

We have added a fun and interesting new feature to our States Facebook page. Every week we are featuring 1 or 2 bios of our members. If you wish to be featured, please send your article to [Karlwiolk@gmail.com](mailto:Karlwiolk@gmail.com) please include why you joined, how long you have been an Elk, and what your favorite program or events is. A picture of yourself is encouraged.

## Northwest District Vice President Thomas Weller

*Editor's note: Thomas Weller was elected and installed as the Northwest District Vice President at the Wisconsin Elks Association May Convention. We mourn his passing on June 3, 2023. Here are the final words that he shared with us:*



June 1, 2023  
Greetings from Wisconsin's largest Elks District in terms of area. We have eight lodges from Wisconsin Rapids to the south, Stevens Point to the east, Eau Claire to the west and

Superior to the north. Other lodges in our district are Marshfield, Chippewa Falls, Rice Lake and Ashland. It's my honor to serve as the district vice president and keep you informed of key programs, projects and people.

After 17 years as a member of the Stevens Point Elks #641 and stints as ER and Grand Lodge district deputy, I've served with several exalted rulers. What strikes me about these leaders is that each one brings his or her individual strengths and talents to the position. There's no single profile or requirement for success. Perhaps the only constant of the ERs I've known is their love and dedication to the tenets of Elkdom. We were proud that one of the ERs in the Northwest District, TJ Jungwirth, was awarded the 2022/23 Exalted Ruler of the Year. Those who know TJ recognize that he put his heart and soul into the position. He was the face of the Elks in the Stevens Point community and was always on the lookout for ways to grow membership through personal contacts. His energy and love for the Elks and his community were

contagious. TJ was a humble leader who received a well-deserved award. Once again, congratulations to TJ, and best wishes to all the 2023/24 ERs and officers in our lodges.

Thomas Weller,  
Northwest District Vice President

## A message to Northwest District members and lodges

In accordance with our bylaws, the Wisconsin Elks Association Board of Directors will select a member to fill his term. We are asking each lodge of the Northwest District to check their membership for an interested person. If you have a name, please send it to Ken Johnson with a brief bio no later than July 21. The board will make a decision after that time.

Thank you, Ken Johnson,  
Wisconsin Elks Association Secretary

## South District Vice President Manuel Salinas III



Greetings from the Wisconsin Elks South District!

It is my honor and privilege to once again be elected by the members of the South District as Vice President.

My name is Manuel Salinas, III.,

but my friends and Elk family know me as Manny. I have been a Wisconsin Elks member for 19 years, beginning my journey in Elkdom as a member of Waukesha Lodge 400.

In 2004 Elk member Jeff Bjerke invited me, my wife Sarah and our children Katie and Jonathan to join his family at the annual Elks family picnic at the Waukesha Lodge.

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It was a beautiful day as we enjoyed games, raffles, food, beverages and music amongst a gathering of Elks members who made my family feel welcome. I was also impressed to see the Elks attendees pay homage to a Veterans who were transported by bus to the picnic from Milwaukee's Zablocki VA Medical Center. The Veterans were honored by the Elks for their service to our country; it touched me to see these individuals being recognized for their courage and valor. The kindness and care I saw at the Elks picnic made an impression on me, so when Jeff asked if I would like to become a member of the Waukesha Elks, there was no hesitation when I said "yes."

I was voted into the organization and initiated as a member of Waukesha 400. I joined the Lodge as a new Elk year was about to begin and a new incoming Exalted Ruler was to be installed. One evening soon after my initiation I received a call from ER Elect Joe Harrer who asked me if I had an interest in becoming his Lodge Esquire. I asked Joe what the Esquire job entails and he replied "lots of memorization and a tuxedo!" I accepted and became Waukesha's Lodge Esquire. I was to be Waukesha's Lodge Esquire for the next 12 consecutive years serving 11 Exalted Rulers. In 2008, in my position as Lodge Esquire under Exalted Ruler Arlyn Clarksen, I was awarded Officer of the Year.

In 2016 I was encouraged to move into a chair officers position and became Waukesha's Lecturing Knight.

I served in this position for two years and then became Leading Knight in 2018. I was elected as Waukesha's Exalted Ruler for the 2019 - 2020 Elks Year. I had a memorable year as ER with my wife – first lady Sarah – at my side.

In continuing my second term as Vice President South District, I look forward to working with the leadership teams and members of Janesville, Madison,

Milwaukee, Platteville and my home Lodge in Waukesha. I again look forward to Lodge visitations & encouraging South District successes in membership growth, scholarship and grant efforts, youth activities and community service. I will do my utmost to represent our South District lodges & the Wisconsin Elks Association with integrity, ethics, and honesty.

Let's make this another great year for Elksdom and our South District Lodges.

Fraternally,

Manny, Manuel Salinas, III.

Vice President South District

## **Northeast District Vice President Solomon King**



Even though its early in the year, let's all hit the ground running and get to work.

The Northeast District is already off to a successful start. A couple lodges to make note of - Green Bay showed fiscal

responsibility when replacing five of their toilets and half was reimbursed by the Committee for the Disabled. Wausau gained some spotlight giving tours to 160 people by partnering with the Historical Society for an event that focused on local history. And Antigo showed appreciation to the ladies of their Lodge by hosting a "Ladies Night Out" where they dressed up for the Kentucky Derby and the men of their Lodge cooked them a chicken dinner. Nice work to those Lodges!

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Those three items stood out to me in their monthly reports for good reason. First, has your Lodge taken advantage of all financial resources like Green Bay did? Second, is your Lodge thinking outside of the box on how to get fresh faces inside the Lodge to see what you do for the community like Wausau did? And, does your Lodge show appreciation to everyone involved at your Lodge like Antigo did? If not, please do. And if you're not sure how, please ask around for help.

State President Karl Hanke has given direction to the vice presidents to focus on membership, the importance of it and how to get membership growth. During the year of travels, I will take a few moments during the State President's dinner to discuss this. Membership can be a difficult topic to talk about. All of us know without membership we don't have the Elks. And we all want to see membership growth. So how do we take those thoughts and put it into action to get results? I will be bringing that to light. Stay tuned.

I look forward to visiting with each of you and seeing what the rest of this year has in store for us.

Solomon King

Northeast District Vice President

## Central District Vice President Ryan Swantz



To the Elks of Wisconsin's Central District, I say thank you for putting your trust and confidence in me to serve as your District Vice-President. For those who may not know me, I will introduce myself. My name is Ryan Swantz from

Watertown Lodge 666. I am a 24-year member of the Elks. In that time, I have served as Exalted Ruler twice, District Deputy in 2009-10, Vice-President of the East-Central District in 2010-11, and just finished a 10-year run as State Inner Guard. I assure all of you that I will put as much devotion and dedication into being your District Vice-President as I have in all my other positions with the Elks. My wife, Joy, and I are both government employees, so we're dedicated public servants. I am here to serve and represent you. Please reach out to me at any time.

Summer is here, which means it's time to get outside and enjoy the weather. But while outside, we should seize the opportunity to make ourselves known in our communities. There are public events abound that we can participate in. There are community parades, youth events in the park, brat fry events, or we can make our own events for the community. The possibilities are endless to get our names out there, and maybe even have a fundraiser associated with it. Take pride in what you're doing and help us achieve ***Growth Through Pride***.

But, in order to do these events, we need Elks to participate. How active is the membership in your Lodge? Do you have a core group of Elks that take on everything, or do you have energetic new members that are taking the ball and running with it? Maybe you have a mix of both. If you find yourself in the first category, start thinking about ways to get your new members involved. Talk to them to see what motivates them, and what they're passionate about. Then, suggest a committee to them to see if they want to get involved. Don't just thrust a responsibility on a new member or assign them to a committee, and certainly don't ignore their drive to get involved.

Although the new Elk year has just started, we already need to be thinking ahead to next

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year. In a few short months, the Leading Knights will be asked for their recommendations to State Committees. I believe this is one of the most important tasks that will pave our way for success in the future. I suggest going through the State Directory and making a list of your members that are currently on a State Committee, and a list of what State Committees have no representation from your Lodge. Ask the Elks from your Lodge who are on a State Committee if they want to continue, and then fill in the gaps with Elks who are not currently on a State Committee. While all your recommendations may not be approved, chances are there will be enough openings to get some of your new members on a State Committee. President Karl Hanke mentioned that there were only two or three new names added to all State Committees combined this year. I'd like to see at least two or three new names per Lodge be recommended to serve on State Committees, and then we'll get more Elks serving. Many hands make light work... and more hands mean we can get more done.

Another area I want Lodges to immediately start thinking about is your Lodge Grant Coordinator for next year. If you are looking to make a change, or if your current Grant Coordinator has mentioned stepping down, now is the time to start thinking and acting. Some of the grants are competitive, and your application needs to be in as close to midnight on April 1 as possible, so Lodges that will be changing Grant Coordinators need to have a collaborative effort from their current and new Grant Coordinators in place in order to be sure of a smooth transition. Do you want to risk losing grant money because your new Grant Coordinator is seeing the CIP Dashboard and the grant questions for the first time on April 1? Training is extremely helpful for a new Grant Coordinator to get

some extra money to invest in your community.

Finally, we are living in a crucial and sometimes frightening time in our history. There is military conflict overseas, there are mass shootings in public places around the world, and there is escalating struggle between people who have differing views on a variety of topics. But through it all, we need to remember what we do as Elks and why we do what we do as Elks. We need to stay positive and be the epitome of all that is good in this world. Growing up, I had a good neighbor that many of you may already know. His name was Mr. Rogers. After the 9/11 attacks, Mr. Rogers recorded an address to children (and many adults), who were confused about how to feel amidst all that was happening at such a difficult time in our lives. In that address he said, "No matter what our particular job, especially in our world today, we all are called to be 'Tikkun Olam,' repairers of creation. Thank you for whatever you do, wherever you are, to bring joy, and light, and hope, and faith, and pardon, and love to your neighborhood and to yourself." As Elks, this same philosophy applies to us. So, I say thank you for all that you do, no matter how big or small, and all that you will continue to do.

Fraternally,

Ryan J. Swantz, PER, PDDGER  
Central District Vice-President

			WISCONSIN ELKS ASSOCIATION										
					2022-2023 Membership Statistics and Per- Capita Dues								
6/10/2023													
	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	
<b>LODGE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>
ANTIGO # 662	258	259	258	262	272	278	281	269	269	251	252	257	5
APPLETON # 337	65	62	57	48	45	46	49	50	47	47	47	44	(3)
ASHLAND # 137	178	179	175	149	148	140	140	142	128	127	125	127	2
BARABOO # 688	282	282	270	241	220	210	207	193	190	179	187	183	(4)
BEAVER DAM # 1540	48	44	38	40	37	35	37	39	43	37	34	32	(2)
BELOIT # 864	55	53	47	42	44	44	41	38	37	35	31	0	(31)
CHIPPEWA FALLS # 1326	163	169	160	157	151	152	149	148	139	137	136	138	2
EAU CLAIRE # 402	234	216	208	214	201	207	212	225	251	250	299	342	43
FOND DU LAC # 57	435	436	405	389	100	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
GREEN BAY # 259	86	90	87	84	74	69	59	54	62	54	64	76	12
JANESVILLE # 254	238	217	190	175	171	171	170	161	153	150	155	150	(5)
KAUKAUNA # 962	56	55	48	49	49	45	46	44	41	39	38	38	0
MADISON # 410	827	773	755	778	758	765	756	759	716	660	677	713	36
MANITOWOC # 687	156	130	97	119	133	163	194	203	150	216	202	199	(3)
MARINETTE # 1313	412	411	403	373	360	360	336	314	313	313	342	320	(22)
MARSHFIELD # 665	658	662	660	644	633	621	606	590	584	566	554	579	25
MILWAUKEE # 46	334	309	294	298	281	310	294	267	247	229	239	243	4
NEENAH-MENASHA #676	88	88	85	70	72	77	81	74	69	76	73	67	(6)
OCONTO # 887	96	94	94	83	79	79	78	78	84	83	80	73	(7)
OSHKOSH # 292	325	326	332	338	342	325	315	326	321	293	289	330	41
PLATTEVILLE # 1460	239	226	221	202	181	171	156	144	137	120	111	103	(8)
PORTAGE # 675	219	200	197	185	175	187	187	198	185	194	194	192	(2)
RACINE # 252	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
RICE LAKE # 1441	616	625	625	628	626	616	602	618	623	593	575	555	(20)
SHEBOYGAN # 299	629	610	589	569	552	531	523	531	522	517	519	530	11
STEVENS POINT # 641	384	353	336	312	292	290	280	273	276	263	261	280	19
SUPERIOR # 403	334	330	352	355	348	326	330	342	321	216	314	307	(7)
TWO RIVERS # 1380	109	99	82	74	70	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
WALWORTH-LAKELAND # 2201	85	80	71	77	69	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
WATERTOWN # 666	185	185	190	193	198	202	230	225	226	220	229	222	(7)
WAUKESHA # 400	252	237	224	220	215	209	215	213	200	201	205	202	(3)
WAUSAU # 248	753	756	739	715	669	661	657	627	585	534	530	501	(29)
WISCONSIN RAPIDS # 693	143	139	137	130	122	116	144	138	129	116	115	108	(7)
<b>TOTALS</b>	8942	8695	8426	8213	7687	7406	7375	7283	7048	6716	6877	6911	34
		-247	-269	-213	-526	-281	-31	-92	-235	-332	161	34	



Wisconsin Benevolent Fund  
Lodge Per-Capita  
2022-2023

<b>Lodge</b>	<b>Number of Members</b>	<b>Lodge Donations</b>	<b>Donation Per Member</b>
Antigo, WI, # 662	252	\$ 595.00	2.36
Appleton, WI, # 337	42	\$ 99.00	2.36
Ashland, WI, # 137	126	\$ 680.00	5.40
Baraboo, WI, # 688	188	\$ 827.00	4.40
Beaver Dam, WI, #1540	34	\$ 544.00	16.00
Beloit, WI, # 864	31	\$ 555.00	17.90
Chippewa Falls, WI, #1326	135	\$ 800.00	5.93
Eau Claire, WI, # 402	299	\$ 810.00	2.71
Green Bay, WI, # 259	64	\$ 570.00	8.91
Janesville, WI, # 254	155	\$ 5,058.00	32.63
Kaukauna, WI, # 962	38	\$ 520.00	13.68
Madison, WI, # 410	677	\$ 863.00	1.27
Manitowoc, WI, # 687	210	\$ 341.30	1.63
Marinette, WI, #1313	341	\$ 490.00	1.44
Marshfield, WI, # 665	580	\$ 840.00	1.45
Milwaukee, WI, # 46	225	\$ 910.00	4.04
Neenah-Menasha, WI, # 676	73	\$ 879.00	12.04
Oconto, WI, # 887	80	\$ 733.50	9.17
Oshkosh, WI, # 292	289	\$ 1,784.00	6.17
Platteville, WI, #1460	112	\$ 610.00	5.45
Portage, WI, # 675	194	\$ 841.00	4.34
Rice Lake, WI, #1441	577	\$ 691.00	1.20
Sheboygan, WI, # 299	519	\$ 760.00	1.46
Stevens Point, WI, # 641	261	\$ 1,509.50	5.78
Superior, WI, # 403	315	\$ 200.00	0.63
Watertown, WI, # 666	229	\$ 915.43	4.00
Waukesha, WI, # 400	205	\$ 1,287.00	6.28
Wausau, WI, # 248	534	\$ 2,615.00	4.90
Wisconsin Rapids, WI, # 693	115	\$ -	-
	<b>6,900</b>	<b>\$ 27,327.73</b>	<b>3.96</b>

**Wisconsin Elks Association, Inc.**  
**Application for Charitable Lodge Grants**  
**DEADLINE IS DEC. 31 – NO EXCEPTIONS**

A Lodge may seek a maximum reimbursement of \$1,750.00. When the checks are issued, please acknowledge that the are grants from the Wisconsin Elks Association.

Date:

Lodge Name & Number:

Choose either A or B

A

( ) At the regular Lodge meeting dated \_\_\_\_\_ the Lodge voted to seek reimbursement from the Wisconsin Elks Association for the following unreimbursed - charitable, educational, or patriotic/veteran's programs. We have already expended the monies, and attached are copies of the front and back of the canceled checks for which we are seeking reimbursement.

B

( ) At the regular Lodge meeting dated \_\_\_\_\_, the Lodge voted to have the Wisconsin Elks Association write a two part check to the Lodge and to the recipient for the following charitable, educational, or patriotic/veteran's programs (*absolutely no more than two*):

1.

2.

Total amount requested: \$

\*To be considered charitable, the monies generally have to be given to a 501c(3) organization, such as the United Way or the Wisconsin Elks Major Project (the organization can supply you with their IRS determination letter if they truly are a 501c(3)); youth groups such as scouting, boys and girls clubs, youth athletic leagues; not for profit schools; churches, etc. The IRS regulations say that gifts to individuals, no matter how needy, are not charitable unless the name is received from a specific government agency or a 501c(3) organization. (The lodge itself can spend the money, if the names of the people that it services are received from a governmental or 501c(3) organization, and only those people are the ones benefiting.)

\*To qualify as educational, the money has to go to the school, in the name of the school and the individual. (This ensures that the monies are spent on tuition and not on personal expenses.)

The list above is not complete and there are many types of activities and events that may be eligible. Please contact Jeff Langton, Treasurer of the Wisconsin Elks Association, should you have any questions on what programs might be eligible.

I understand that it is solely up to the discretion of the Wisconsin Elks Board to determine if a program is eligible for reimbursement. Further, we have not received any reimbursement for these programs from any other source, including other Wisconsin Elks Association committees, nor from our general membership, unless noted above.

**Submit to the State Secretary no later than Dec. 31, 2023.**

Signed

Title

## Hats in the ring state president elect



**WHEREAS,** Ryan J. Swantz was initiated into the Elks in October 2000, and has continued to be a dedicated member of the Order for 24 years; and

**WHEREAS,** Ryan has served in the offices of Trustee, Tiler, Esquire, Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Esteemed Loyal Knight, Esteemed Leading Knight, and two terms as Exalted Ruler in 2004-05 and 2018-19; and

**WHEREAS,** Ryan was recognized for his commitment to the Lodge by being named Officer of the Year in 2001-02 and 2009-10; and

**WHEREAS,** Ryan currently serves as the ENF Fundraising Chairperson, Investigative Committee Chairperson, and ENF Grants Coordinator for Watertown Lodge #666; and

**WHEREAS,** Ryan has served two terms as President and five terms as Secretary of the Watertown Lodge #666 PER Association; and

**WHEREAS,** Ryan has served seven terms as ENF Fundraising Chairperson for the Central District of the Wisconsin Elks Association; and

**WHEREAS,** Ryan has served the Wisconsin Elks Association on numerous State Committees including three terms as Chairperson of the ER/Leading Knight Advisory Committee, current Chairperson of the Resolutions and Laws Committee, and Vice-Chairperson of the Ritualistic Exemplification Committee; and

**WHEREAS,** Ryan has previously served the Wisconsin Elks Association as State Inner Guard for a total of 10 terms, Vice-President of the East-Central District for the 2010-11 year, and is currently serving as the Vice-President of the Central District; and

**WHEREAS,** Ryan has served the Grand Lodge as a Word Accuracy Judge at the 2017 Grand Lodge Ritual Competition in Reno, NV and as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the 2009-10 year; and

**WHEREAS,** Ryan was recognized for his continued dedication to the Elks by being presented with the President's Volunteer Service Award for Lifetime Achievement in April 2023 by the President of the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** Ryan has been employed as a public servant since 2009 of which 12 years were with the State of Wisconsin and is currently serving his third year as the Controller for the City of Sun Prairie, and

**WHEREAS,** Ryan and his wife Joy have unselfishly given their time and dedication to the Elks on the local, state, and national levels;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** the Past Exalted Rulers, Officers, and Members of Watertown Lodge #666 proudly endorse and hereby submit the name of Ryan J. Swantz, PER, PDDGER for the position of President-Elect of the Wisconsin Elks Association for the year 2024-25.

Submitted this 15<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2023

Terri Breese, Exalted Ruler  
Watertown Lodge #666



## **HATS IN THE RING STATE PRESIDENT ELECT**

At the August 9, 2022, Waukesha Elks Lodge #400's monthly Lodge meeting a motion was made to support the candidacy of Jason Somers, PER of the Lodge for the position of Wisconsin Elks State President Elect of the Wisconsin Elks Association. This motion was unanimously approved by the members of the Waukesha Elks Lodge #400. Exalted Ruler Jill Gorski then directed me as the Lodge Secretary to prepare a letter of support for Jason Somers.

Jason has served the Waukesha Elks Lodge with exemplary leadership in all of the Chairs, as an Exalted Ruler, and Past Exalted Ruler. During the past several years he has served as a Trustee, and as the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

He follows through with the tasks, and generates and supports ideas and activities for the Lodge and Elkdom. He reads the rules, and bylaws needed to keep the organization on the right track and shares his knowledge with others. He ensures that we follow the rules and regulations of the B.P.O.E., the City of Waukesha, and County of Waukesha, and the State of Wisconsin. Jason has always worked to keep Waukesha Elks Lodge #400 on the right path. His Elk awards include Officer of the Year 2020-2021, Exalted Rulers Exemplary Elk Award 2019-2020, and GER Outstanding Service Commendation 2018-2019.

Jason has also served the Lodge by working on the cooking crew for Lodge Friday Fish Fry activities, Bingo Sundays, Brew City Wrestling, and for other Lodge events when asked. He will take a broom, and clean where needed, wiping off tables, washing dishes, or carrying out trash. Ask, and he is ready to help. He is also willing to listen to and support different ways of accomplishing tasks and events.

On the State Elks of Wisconsin level, he has served as WEA Grand Lodge Attendance Chair, WEA Conferences & Conventions Vice-Chair, WEA Lodge Activities Chair, WEA Publicity & Public Relations Vice-Chair, Vice-President South District, and GL DDGER Auditor for the South District.

Jason has been involved in family activities as an Assistant Scoutmaster for which he also received BSA Oakleaf Leadership Training, as the St Paul's Lutheran Church Eaglebots Robotics Coach, and as a mentor for the Muskego High School Robotics Team.

Jason is endorsed by the membership of the Waukesha Elks Lodge #400, and by the Past Exalted Rulers of the Waukesha Elks Lodge #400. On Behalf of Waukesha Elks Lodge #400's Exalted Ruler Jill Gorski, the members, and Arlyn Clarksen PER, Secretary, this letter of support is submitted to the Wisconsin Elks State Membership.

Submitted as faithful members of Elkdom by:

Arlyn Clarksen  
Arlyn Clarksen, PER  
Secretary  
Elks Lodge #400



## PRE-REGISTRATION FORM – DEADLINE Aug. 12, 2023

STATE Conference – Sept. 15-17th, 2023  
PAPER VALLEY CONVENTION CENTER, APPLETON  
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM FOR W.E.A. CONFERENCE  
(REGISTRATION INFORMATION – PLEASE PRINT)

One form per member, please print

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

LODGE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE/GUEST (FIRST & LAST NAMES) \_\_\_\_\_

(BADGE PROVIDED ONLY IF ATTENDING LUNCHEON)

	<u>NO TICKETS</u>	<u>COST</u>	
PRE-REGISTRATION FEE:	1	@\$15.00	\$ 15.00
GUEST LUNCHEON			
Turkey Breast Sandwich	-----	_____ @\$14.00	\$ _____
<i>OR</i>			
Chef Salad	-----	_____ @\$14.00	\$ _____
ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON			
Turkey Breast Sandwich	-----	_____ @\$14.00	\$ _____
<i>OR</i>			
Chef Salad	-----	_____ @\$14.00	\$ _____
SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET			
Roasted Pork Loin	-----	_____ @\$24.00	\$ _____
<i>OR</i>			
Baked Haddock	-----	_____ @\$24.00	\$ _____
ALL MEALS INCLUDE TAX & TIP		TOTAL	\$ _____

Make Checks payable to WEA and send to Ken Johnson, State Sec. WEA, 1602 Foothill Avenue, Schofield, WI 54476

### GUEST AND ASSOCIATION LUNCHEONS:

**Turkey Breast Sandwich:** Sliced oven roasted turkey, lettuce, tomato, Swiss cheese, sundried tomato aioli on artisan ciabatta roll & *kettle chips*, Coffee, Tea.

**Chef Salad:** Iceberg lettuce with julienne ham, turkey, and Swiss and cheddar cheeses, tomato wedges, sliced cucumbers, Hard-boiled egg, and alfalfa sprouts; served with buttermilk ranch or French dressing & *freshly made breadsticks* And Coffee, Tea .

### SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET:

**Roasted Pork Loin:** Slow roasted Pork rubbed with honey and thyme and finished with a light supreme sauce

**Baked Haddock:** A Boneless Haddock Fillet, baked with Lemon Pepper and Toasted Almonds.

Both Banquet meals served with Green Beans Almandine, Parsley Potatoes, Garden Salad with Buttermilk Ranch and French Dressings and Rolls and Butter and Coffee, Tea.

FORMS POSTMARKED AFTER AUG. 12, 2023 WILL BE RETURNED TO  
SENDER. YOU WILL HAVE TO REGISTER ON SITE AT A FEE OF \$25.00.

*No meal tickets will be sold on site*

## A note from the editor

Greetings – Since this is the first edition of the Bugle I am producing I'd like to share some thoughts and guidelines.

First, we all owe Ken Johnson a deep debt of gratitude for the decades of work producing the Bugle. It has been a vital communication tool that connects our lodges and members. I can only hope to keep it as vital as it has been.

You can help. Feedback is encouraged. What do you want to see in the Bugle going forward? You also can contribute. This is YOUR publication. It will only be as good as the information you share.

Here are some guidelines for submitting information and photos:

- All submissions must be emailed to [Wisconsinelks@gmail.com](mailto:Wisconsinelks@gmail.com)
- Photos should be original jpg files that have not been downloaded from social media or a website.
- Identify all photos by date, location and names of those pictured.
- Articles should be in Word or PDF documents or in the body of the email.

Please understand that there may be issues when not everything submitted can run, but we will do our best to include what is provided on a timely basis.

The same guidelines above apply to submissions for the WEA website [wielks.com](http://wielks.com). The website will be updated as frequently as possible.

All of this is a work in progress. I am still learning the process and recruiting people to help. Once there is an established process, I'll reach out to those who have offered help and bring you on board for various roles.

We can use help with design, editing, writing, website management and more.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 920-210-3178 or via email.

Thanks, Aaron Holbrook,  
WEA Publicity Chair

## All American Lodge Contest top 10 lists

This past year, 229 Lodges from 38 State Associations were forwarded to be judged in the Contest 'A' - All American Lodge Contest.

Two Lodges from Wisconsin are among the top 10 in their division:

Here are the top 10 in each division/

### Division I (1-150 Members)

Cushing-Drumright, OK No. 2712  
Elmwood Park-Paterson, NJ No. 60  
Fayetteville, NC No. 1081  
Grangeville, ID No. 1825  
**Green Bay, WI No. 259**  
Mount Airy, NC No. 2061  
Norfolk, NE No. 653  
Norfolk, VA No. 38  
Pendleton, SC No. 2861  
San Angelo, TX No. 1880

### Division II (151-225 Members)

Cedar Grove, NJ No. 2237  
Greater Spokane, WA No. 228  
Katy, TX No. 2628  
Loudoun, VA No. 2406  
**Milwaukee, WI No. 46**  
Newport News, VA No. 315  
Ridgecrest, CA No. 1913  
Santa Monica, CA No. 906  
Tri-Cities, WA No. 2755  
Wheeling, WV No. 28

The announcement of the first, second, and third place winning Lodges in each Division will occur during the Tuesday morning Business Session at the Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis.

# WEA at Appleton Flag Day Parade





# Wisconsin Elks Association Awards



**Lodge of the year Watertown 666**



**Exalter Ruler of the Year TJ Jungwirth**



**Elk of the year Eugene Wusterbarth**



**Secretary of the Year Mary Hagen**

**Elks Lady of The  
Year Jackie  
Godlewski**





## *THE BUGLE*

COPY DEADLINES

FALL CONFERENCE  
August 1

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE  
November 1

CONVENTION ISSUE  
March 1



WISCONSIN **ELKS** ASSOCIATION

a fraternal organization  
1602 FOOTHILL AVE.  
SCHOFIELD, WI 54476

Wisconsin Elks Association web page: [wielks.org](http://wielks.org)