



# The Bugle

Fall 2023



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**Conference schedule**

**Meet GER Randy P. Shook**

WISCONSIN ELKS ASSOCIATION  
STATE OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT**

Karl Hanke (715) 297-9605

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Pat Moran (847) 732-3810

**VICE-PRESIDENT—NORTHWEST**

TJ Jungwirth

**VICE-PRESIDENT—NORTHEAST**

Solomon King (715) 581-8380

**VICE-PRESIDENT—CENTRAL**

Ryan Swantz (920) 539-0548

**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) 393-4747

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

Donald Behnke (920) 923-0707

**INNER GUARD**

Gina Staskal (920) 960-1821

**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Patrick Buck (920) 731-7692

**HISTORIAN**

Gerry Brien

**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

**STATE MEETINGS**

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

2024 Mid-winter Conf: 2/15-2/18 Green Bay

2024 Spring Convention: 5/2-5/5 Appleton

**NEXT BUGLE DEADLINE**

**Nov. 1**

**Email: [Wisconsinelks@gmail.com](mailto:Wisconsinelks@gmail.com)**

## CORRECTION!!

Due to a lot of technicalities and some miscommunication, the guest lunch and the Association Lunch **will not** be combined. If anyone needs to change their meal plans from one to the other, please email your changes to me but make sure to put your name in the body of email. I probably will not know who you are by an email address. Also, if you would like to add a meal, please copy the form, mark your choice, add a check and send it to me. Thanks for your understanding.

Ken Johnson, State Secretary WEA  
[elksbugle@aol.com](mailto:elksbugle@aol.com) 715-355-0758

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Advisory: Nikki Shannon

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: Manny Salinas III

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: Kathy Francis

Trustee Training: Pat Moran

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

Wisconsin Elks, you are on fire and I could not be prouder!

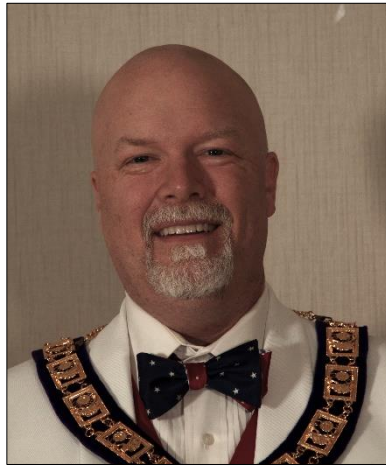
The members and the lodges that make up the Wisconsin Elks Association are kicking butt and helping the members of our communities. I love reading about all the different programs and events that each lodge has been participating in and even better, I love learning about how you are using monies earned to help people who are less fortunate. From summer fun and meat raffles to farmers market cookout and steak feeds.

Drug awareness has been making a huge impact on our youth by handing out information to parents and coloring books to kids.

The Grand Lodge Attendance Committee surpassed every expectation by creating and maintaining the best state hospitality room in the nation this year in Minneapolis. Food, music, and all the games in-between, made the Wisconsin hospitality room by far and away the best room at Grand Lodge.

Attendance at all the different state events has been great with a substantial increase over past years. From our visit at Camp Wawbeek to the annual state campout in July, more and more members are attending these events resulting in more information being shared with fun and laughter accruing as well.

The state also continues to grow as Aaron Holbrook works with Ken Johnson to advance the website, Bugle, and Directory. If you have ideas, thoughts, pictures,



corrections, or articles please send them to [WisconsinElks@gmail.com](mailto:WisconsinElks@gmail.com).

I truly could not be prouder of all the great works that you continue to do in the name of the Elks. Please keep up the fantastic work. I look forward to continued growth and sharing of community, youth, and veteran projects as we proceed with our travels across the state.

**Karl Hanke**  
**Wisconsin Elks State President**

## Wisconsin Elks President Calendar 2023-2024

Sept. 8 Watertown  
Sept. 14-17 Fall Conference – Appleton  
Sept. 30 Waukesha  
Oct. 1 Pancake breakfast at Camp Wawbeek  
Oct. 13 Neenah  
October 14 Marshfield  
October 20 Kaukauna  
October 21 Oshkosh  
November 5 Madison  
November 11 Baraboo  
December 1 Green Bay  
December 2 Oconto  
December 9 Antigo  
January 27 Milwaukee  
February 3 Beaver Dam  
February 9-10 Hoop Shoot  
February 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 letter from the First Lady

Hello to all my Wisconsin friends!

What a year of excitement and energy we've had so far as we traveled to various lodges for State President visits, Camp Wawbeek, Plymouth Rock campground, and of course Grand Lodge in Minneapolis! I am so humbled by the support, friendship, and pride our members are taking in our organization and with us on this journey. Together, there is nothing we can't achieve! Here's a few highlights for you: Grand Lodge - kudos to the committee for everything, it was so much fun! And of course, I was beaming with pride watching Karl raise our state flag with one arm and carry it across the platform with such prestige and glory. A record number of Wisconsin attendees, Rosie represented Wisconsin for the 11 O'clock toast, Green Bay lodge nominated officer Kyle Mason who won the National Enrique Camarena award, the Elks Major Project booth received a 5-Star Award, Green Bay lodge took 3rd in the All American Lodge contest, Wisconsin was recognized for a membership gain (second year in a row), and Wisconsin is second in the State ENF Chair Challenge. Camping and building friendships with more than 30 Elks from across the state, Hagen hospitality, record attendance at Elks Day at Camp Wawbeek, great president visits thus far and still so much more to look forward to!

At the fall conference in September, we have the honor of hosting some very special guests: Grand Exalted Ruler Randy P. Shook and First Lady Wanda, our State



Sponsor PGER F. Louis Suslberger and Past First Lady Beth. Let's make them feel welcome by giving them a "grand" Wisconsin welcome and we hope to see you all at the banquet on Saturday evening!

The Fall Ladies Luncheon unfortunately will **not yet** be combined with the Associate luncheon so I encourage you to join me on Saturday for the Ladies Luncheon to show Wanda your support and friendship.

And please don't forget a donation to the Ladies Raffle table with the proceeds going to the Benevolent fund. The winners will be drawn at the Ladies Luncheon Saturday.

**Annie Hanke, First Lady  
Wisconsin Elks Association 2023-2024**

## Learn Who's Who in Elkdom

We have added a fun and interesting new feature to our state's 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 list your favorite program and/or events. A picture of yourself is encouraged.

## Sign up for Google Calendar

Would you like access to all State and Lodge events and times at your fingertips? Then contact Nikki Shannon or Karl Hanke to get access to the new State Online Calendar.



**BIOGRAPHY OF**  
**RANDY P. SHOOK**  
**GRAND EXALTED RULER**  
**2023-2024**

*Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the U.S.A.*

*Nashville, Tennessee* is the birthplace of country music, bluegrass, and Randy Paul Shook who was born in its rolling hills on the 25th of November. Along with his parents, D. Webster Shook, Sr. and Joyce Fay (Sims) Shook, his younger sisters, Pam and Patty, Randy grew up and went to school in Loretto, a small town in Lawrence County.

Completing school in 1974, Randy worked in the family farming operation until 1977 when he joined the team at Genesco, a shoe manufacturer in nearby Pulaski. His career advanced while at Genesco, as he was promoted to Assistant Department Manager in 1980 and Department Manager in 1982.

Randy's time at Genesco is significant for another reason: in 1981, this is where he met the love of his life and his soulmate, Wanda. They have been partners in life, love, and laughter ever since.

In 1984, Randy discovered his vocation while studying Real Estate, Banking, and Economics at Columbia State Community College and became an affiliate real estate broker. After continuing to take courses through the Tennessee Real Estate Educational System and graduating from the Nashville Auction School, Randy became a licensed Real Estate Broker and Auctioneer in 1986. He served as President of the Southern Middle Tennessee Board of Realtors in 1989.

Randy founded his company, Appraisals Plus, in 1992 after becoming a Certified Real Estate Appraiser. He remains the sole proprietor of Appraisals Plus which serves seven counties in southern Tennessee. For more than 20 years his son, Billy, and niece, Kristy have worked side-by-side with Randy as Certified Appraisers.

Randy was proposed and initiated into Lawrenceburg Lodge No. 2206 in 1993 and continues to this day to be an active and dedicated member. He was elected Esteemed Loyal Knight in 1995-1996, Exalted Ruler in 1996-1997 and 1998-1999, and Trustee from 1999 to 2001. Randy was named Lawrenceburg Elk of the Year in 2008-2009. He was elected Treasurer from 2010 to 2015 and again in 2019-2020.

Randy began his service to the Tennessee Elks Association in 1998-1999 as Vice President-Elect and was Vice President in 1999-2000. He was elected President-Elect in 2004-2005 and as Tennessee State President in 2005-2006. His service continued as Government Relations State Chair from 2003 to 2016, Raffle Committee State Chair from 2005 to 2018, Budget Committee State Chair

from 2010 to 2022, Executive Committee from 2009 to present, and the Board of Directors and Advisory from 2006 to present. He was named Tennessee Elk of the Year in 2007-2008 and was inducted into the Tennessee Elks Hall of Fame in 2012-2013.

At the Grand Lodge level, Randy was appointed Esquire to District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 2000-2001. In 2001-2002, he served as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Middle District of Tennessee. Randy was named Area 3 Grand Lodge Government Relations Member from 2007 through 2009. He was elected Grand Treasurer for 2009-2010. Randy was named Area 3 Public Relations and Marketing Member from 2014 to 2018. In 2018, he was elected to represent Area 3 on the Board of Grand Trustees, serving as Building Applications—West Member in 2018-2019, as Pensions and Benefits Member in 2019-2020, as Secretary of the Board in 2020-2021 and Chairman of the Board in 2021-2022.

Along with his service to the Elks, Randy has demonstrated his civic commitment through his service on various Boards and Commissions within his community. He was appointed to the Lawrenceburg Regional Planning Commission in 2003 and served until 2023, serving as the Chairman for the past ten years. He was also on the Zoning Board of Appeals from 2003 to 2023, Lawrence County Joint Economic Board from 2011 to 2023 and Historical Planning from 2019 to 2023. Randy is a 32nd Degree Mason and has been a Shriner for over thirty years.

Randy and Wanda were married on March 19, 1982, and together they have two sons: Brad and Billy. When Brad was 21 years old, Randy had the honor of initiating him into the Elks. When Billy was 21, Randy was the District Deputy of Tennessee's Middle District and was present as Billy was initiated into the Order. Tragically, Brad died in 2021 after a brave fight against pancreatic cancer. Randy and Wanda continue to reside in Lawrence County, Tennessee where they are surrounded by extended family, friends, and most importantly, their four wonderful grandchildren: Madison, Jacob, Griffin, and Vaida.

Randy and Wanda are looking forward to the adventures ahead and are thankful and humbled to represent the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America as Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady. We welcome the opportunity to meet new friends and let our communities know that:



**"WE ARE The ELKS"**



# State President Elect message

Here's hoping that you are enjoying the last few days of summer.

The Grand Lodge Convention is now history and what a convention it was. Wisconsin had a huge presence at the convention. First, a big thank you to Jason Somers and all those on his committee for making the Wisconsin Hospitality Room the talk of the convention. They put in so much work and we received so many great comments from visiting Elks. Thank you! Best of all, Jason will continue to be the chairman of this committee for the next year and know we will have a great Hospitality Room at the next Convention in Austin, Texas.

Thanks to Christine Crum, her Drug Awareness Committee and those at the Green Bay Lodge for their efforts in securing the Enrique Camarena Award for Officer Kyle Mason of Brown County which recognized his personal efforts to reduce drug use and distribution of drugs within his community. It was the first time this award was given to a law enforcement officer in Wisconsin. Pam and I spent a few hours talking to Kyle and his wife and he was amazed at what the Elks do.

Congratulations to all the Lodge ENF Chairmen who worked hard in the Chair Challenge Contest. Wisconsin finished second in the country with their cumulative score. Well done.

And congratulations to the Green Bay and Milwaukee lodges for being a Top 10 finalists in the Grand Lodge All American Lodge Contest. Green Bay went on to finish third in the nation for lodges of their size. I now ask that ALL ER's and Leading



Knights work together and apply for this contest for the next convention. I think when you fill out the form you will be surprised how much you contribute to your communities.

The state president's visits are now underway, and Pam and I are so impressed by the hospitality that has been extended to us. We certainly enjoyed these visits with old and new friends. We look

forward to visiting all of you.

Plans are well underway for the WEA Fall Convention and the visit from the new GER Randy Shook and his wife, Wanda. Judging from his Grand Lodge speech, I'm sure Elks all across the country will benefit from his leadership.

Pam and I look forward to seeing you all at the Fall Convention in Appleton. Safe travels to all and keep up with the great work you do in your communities!

Best wishes to all,

**Pat Moran**  
**WEA State President Elect**

# A message from the State Sponsor

Greetings all:

For those of you who attended the Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, I hope it was an enjoyable and informative convention for you. The final business session culminated in the swearing in of our new Grand Exalted Ruler, Randy P. Shook. Beth and I have known GER Shook and his wife Wanda, the new First Lady of Elksdom, for many years. They are a wonderful and dedicated couple and will be excellent ambassadors representing the Order this year.

Another exciting thing at the National Convention was celebrating a gain in membership in the Order this year, not only at the National Level but in the State of Wisconsin as well for a second year in a row! I want to congratulate everyone for this accomplishment. The WEA is working together to build its membership and you are succeeding! Keep up the great job everyone and let's go for a three-peat!

I would like to thank our most recent Past District Deputies for a job well done. You



all made a great effort to keep me informed of the activities of the Lodges in your Districts and I appreciated that. To our newly installed District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers, congratulations on this achievement and best of luck to you. This will be a year of hard work, but I can assure you that the experience will be one that you will enjoy and not soon forget.

As I write this message, plans are being completed for the Wisconsin Elks Association Fall Conference. At this meeting we will welcome GER Shook and First Lady Wanda to the great State of Wisconsin for their official visit. I know you will give them a warm Wisconsin welcome!

Beth and I look forward to being with all of you next month in Appleton. Until then, stay safe and God Bless.

*Lou*

**F. Louis Sulsberger**  
**Past Grand Exalted Ruler**  
**Wisconsin Elks Association Sponsor**

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUNDS AVAILABLE

Did you know the Youth Activities Committee has money that EVERY lodge in the state can earn? We have a budget of \$8,700 and EVERY lodge can earn a minimum of \$310.71 (based on 28 lodges). Here is how it works:

- Do any event for your youth. Everything is eligible except Hoop Shoot
- Fill out the form found at the WEA website under FORMS
- Mail your receipts or cancelled checks relating to the event
- Send to: Jeff Miller, 35 Reuter Ave, Rice Lake WI 54868 or [jmiller@lampertlumber.com](mailto:jmiller@lampertlumber.com)

For questions call 715-651-65354. Requests will be accepted until March 2, 2024. The first reimbursements will be Oct. 1 and the last March 1, 2024.

**Youth Activities Chair**  
**Jeffery Miller, Rice Lake #1441**



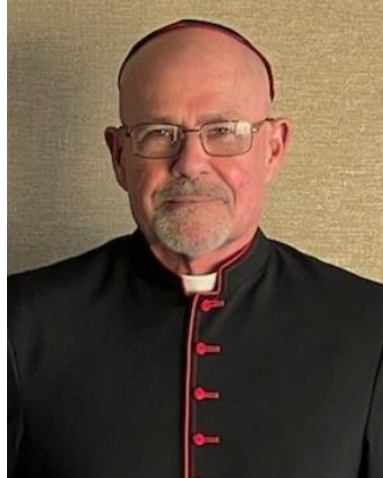
# Connect with your leadership heritage

*So all Israel was recorded in genealogies, and these are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel. And Judah was taken into exile in Babylon because of their breach of faith. 1 Chronicles 9:1 (ESV)*

The first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles furnish a genealogy of Israel's leaders—almost a third of the book!

The enormous space given to these ancestral lines illustrates the vast importance of heritage to a Hebrew leader.

Our generation and culture seem to place a much lower value on tradition and family stock than did other cultures in history. What might we learn from the lineage of Hebrew leaders?



It seems to me that the possibility of *exile* is rather remote, yet the remaining constructs are worth personal reflection. I'm sure that many of our respective lodges have had exemplary leaders. Perhaps there are lodges with unique customs and that blend into established Elk traditions. Whatever these peculiarities are, they are worth teaching to your members to strengthen the unique culture of the lodge and ultimately, the

entire community.

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

*Rev. Mike*

**State Chaplain, Rev. Mike Hackbarth**

1. They remained connected to their heritage.
2. They saw their place in history and gained perspective from it.
3. They were able to honor and pay respect to their forefathers.
4. They saw their lineage as a blessing and passed on this blessing.
5. They used their heritage to provide a sense of stability to their followers.
6. They sensed tendencies of ancestral strengths and calling.
7. They retained their identity even when exiled to a foreign land.



## Central District Vice President Ryan Swantz



To the Central District Elks members:

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over. Kids are returning to school, the sun is going away a little earlier every day, and

we're beginning our transition into the fall holidays. This year's Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis was certainly an amazing event. I came back from our neighbors to the northwest reenergized about what we do as Elks. I personally reflected on the 2004 Convention in Minneapolis when I was representing my Lodge as Exalted Ruler and was in awe about how the Elks National Foundation has nearly tripled its spending on programs from \$13 million to \$40 million in the 19 years since I was first Exalted Ruler. That information alone demonstrates how vital the ENF is to what we do as Elks, and should motivate us to keep those donations coming in. If your Lodge has not yet sent in the check with ENF donations included with dues payments, PLEASE DO SO RIGHT AWAY.

Unfortunately, the prevailing weather patterns, extreme heat and drought, and smoke from the Canadian wildfires has limited our ability to safely get out and get noticed in our communities, although I have seen numerous pictures on Facebook of our Lodges doing good things in our community when they have been safely able to do so. Keep up the good work, but please remember that the health and safety of our members and community should be our utmost concern. If you can't safely get out in the public, start thinking about ways to hold

community events indoors to keep our work going.

This summer was an eventful one for me as our family grew with the marriage of our son to a wonderful young woman. The wedding got me thinking about the growth of our families, and how careful and selective we are when inviting somebody to join our families. We typically select somebody who we think will be with us for the rest of our lives, not somebody who we think will leave us after a few years. We typically select somebody who will support, encourage, and even join us in what is important to us, not somebody who just want to casually and sporadically "hang out" with us. We typically look for somebody who is "in it for the long run," not somebody who will get bored with us and leave. I think we should use the same level of care when choosing who to invite to join our Elks family. Our invitations should be extended to people who we think are going to support our good work for many years to come. Our invitations should be extended to people who share the same passion for what we do in our communities. Our invitations should be extended to people who we think will want to be Elks for the rest of their lives, not just casual acquaintances at social events or even just our friends who only want a place to spend a little time with us. While this approach may mean that we don't experience significant new member growth, it should also mean that we won't experience significant delinquencies and lapsation numbers as well because the people who join will want to renew their membership without having to be reminded, convinced, or (sometimes) begged to do so.

A key to membership loss is bringing in a new member and then leaving them to find their path on their own, never introducing them to other members or programs that we do.

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When we look at our members, we must keep in mind the concept of ohana. Ohana means family, and family means that nobody gets left behind or forgotten. Involve your members in decisions, give them meaningful things to do when they join in at events, keep them in the loop on everything that is going on in the Lodge, listen to their thoughts and ideas, and make sure that they are not left behind or forgotten. You might just be amazed at how much they want to stay involved, and how much your lapsation list shrinks.

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

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



Greetings from the Northeast District,

As a District Vice President, I really enjoy when the monthly reports from Lodges in my district start showing up. It's a

neat opportunity to look inside the other Lodges. I can see what these Lodges have given to their members, their community and also the challenges these Lodges have faced in the past month. This includes challenges a Lodge might be a little self-conscious about. That information is great! I then can take all that information from Lodges and disperse ideas that were successful, offer help and suggestions back, or reach out to more experience State Committee Members for advice. All of that comes from the one little report, sent only once a month.

While that form of communication is more "formal" sent in a report, there are chances for all of us members to do this. It's simple.... networking! The State Conferences and Conventions are endless with networking opportunities. Sit down at a table full of people you don't recognize, introduce yourself, and start talking. Besides state events, how about at your own Lodge? Sit at a different Bingo table, talk with a new group, offer a new member a cocktail and start the conversation. Not sure what to talk about? All you need to do is plant the seed with an open-ended question and let them do the talking. With one of the state's goals being an increase of membership, we need to recognize it is going to be a challenge. However, it's without doubt a goal that can be accomplished, but not if we sit back. We must start the conversations with our current members and recruit new members. I personally challenge every member to physically hand a membership application to someone they feel would be a great fit for the Elks. Simple right? And if only 10% of those applications come back filled out, that would be a growth of almost 700 people!

Now, to spread some ideas to all of you from three Lodges of the Northeast. After several years, Manitowoc brought back BINGO to their members. They already had the equipment, so their committee dusted off the materials and procedures and got to work. Nice job Manitowoc! Does your Lodge have equipment sitting around that can be used? Not every idea needs to reinvent the wheel. Bring back some old activities and see how your members react. A Lodge in the district had catastrophic equipment failures that totaled several thousands of dollars in repairs. Thankfully, due to their smart operations, they had savings to cover the unexpected costs and will be hosting a raffle to replenish those savings.

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Great job to them for staying fiscally responsible! Does your Lodge have back up funding for equipment failure? Do you know what expertise your members have in case of emergencies? Your Board of Directors needs to have a discussion and make sure everyone understands what to do if your Lodge finds itself in a similar circumstance. And finally, due to constant community involvement, Wausau has been accepted by the North Central Wisconsin Community Foundation as a listed organization that contributors can donate funding to remaining confident the funding will be used in a way that'll benefit our community. Great job Wausau! Has your Lodge reached out to a local community foundation? If not, I highly suggest you do! Give them a presentation showing all the good you do in your local community and explain to them the Elks dedication to making communities thrive. Allow those foundations to help fund some of your projects.

I hope you all continue to enjoy what's left of our summer, and I look forward to seeing you all at the next State Conference!

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

### **South District Vice President Manuel Salinas III**



Autumn months are upon us as we now enjoy cooler nights and the scenic beauty of Wisconsin's leaves as they change colors.

We now have our 2023 - 2024 Elk officers in place, and in my second term as Vice

President I am pleased to be able to highlight activities the South District has held benefitting our communities, worthy causes, charitable projects, and the B.P.O.E.

Janesville #254 held Irish Fest on March 14th with donations going to their local Police & Fire Department. Janesville had a Big Band event celebrating long-tenured Elk member, Jack Farina, April 23. International Firefighters Day was recognized by #254 May 4. Janesville Elks provided a \$6,000 donation to Special Olympics and their athletes. Wisconsin's Past State First Lady, Kathleen Hagen, was installed as our South District Deputy GER at the Elks Grand Convention in Minneapolis. WEA State President's Night dinner & dessert auction was held at Janesville #254 July 15 celebrating State President Karl Hanke and our First Lady Annie.

Madison #410 Lodge volunteers cleaned the grounds and added plantings. An Elks Lodge Capital Campaign has begun renovating and improving the clubhouse; a goal of \$25,000 was met in order to receive a matching grant of \$25,000. The current total is \$54,000. La Fete de Marquette was held July 13 - 16 to benefit the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center. Madison Elks Lodge has 745 members and remains the largest in the state.

Waukesha #400 hosted the Wisconsin Elks State Bowling Tournament. A Memorial Day Parade and Picnic was held May 29. The Waukesha PER's Association hosts a members' steak night fundraiser cookout once a month to benefit Youth Activities. The Waukesha Lodge of Elks #400 celebrated the 125th anniversary of their charter.

Platteville #1460 celebrated their 100 Year Elks Charter anniversary & State President's Night on April 1. Platteville held their Elks member's Picnic on June 21.

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A brat fundraiser was held June 23. Platteville Elks members attended seven different high school award nights to present scholarship certificates. A pasty making day fundraiser was held by Platteville #1460 in March.

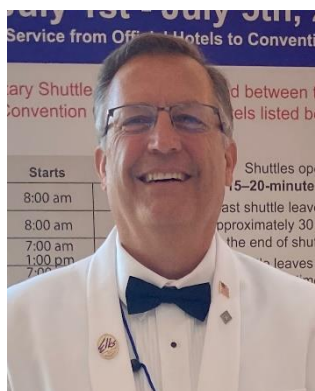
Milwaukee #46 provides a monthly \$100 give away for Teenager of the Month under Youth Activities. A Motorcycle & Bike blessing was held May 20. Milwaukee Lodge presented EEN Teachers at Brown Deer Middle & High Schools with a check to assist in funding field trips for their students. Lodge #46 presented a \$3,400 check to MPA Fallen Heroes. Milwaukee Lodge #46 celebrated 155th Elks Anniversary/Birthday celebration on Feb. 5. A fundraiser dinner & raffle was held for Milwaukee fallen Police Officer, Peter Jerving, Feb. 24.

I want to again recognize and commend the efforts of our South District Lodges as Elkdom continues to impact the communities, people, and charities we serve.

Fraternally,

**Manny**  
**Manuel Salinas, III.**  
**Vice President South District**

### District Deputy Central District Rick Miller



Hello, Wisconsin Elks –  
My name is Rick Miller from Baraboo Lodge #688. I have the honor of serving as the Wisconsin Central District Deputy for 2023-2024. I was

installed at the Grand Lodge Convention held in Minneapolis, MN and had the pleasure of meeting our new Grand Exalted

Ruler Randy P. Shook, Lawrenceburg, TN, Lodge #2206.

We have a strong Central District and I have an excellent team to support me. In addition to myself, Mike Roth from Sheboygan Lodge #299 will be our Esquire to the District Deputy, Jeannie Lange from Oshkosh Lodge #292 will be our Auditor, and Gina Staskal from Oshkosh Lodge #292 will be our Secretary. I am looking forward to our year together.

To the Lodges in my District and to all Elks, I want to assure you that the team will do everything we can to help you with anything you may need.

I had the opportunity to speak with the Lodge leaders during the last few weeks. I have walked away from those conversations with a confident feeling that the Central District of the Wisconsin State Elks Association is ready to roll full steam ahead. We are... the Elks!

Fraternally yours

**Rick Miller**  
**DDGER Central District #9660**

### THIS SPACE FOR RENT

Just kidding, it's free. If you want to submit material for the next edition of the Bugle email it to [wisconsinelks@gmail.com](mailto:wisconsinelks@gmail.com).

The deadline is Nov. 1 for the winter edition of the Bugle.

Jpg files are preferred for photos. It's best if you can identify people in the photo and the photo is identified by name rather than some random number. Photos downloaded from social media will be compressed and of poor quality – so send the original.

Thanks.

**Aaron Holbrook WEA Publicity**  
**Committee Chair**



**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

# Grand Lodge History – 11 O'clock Toast

"Origin of the Toast In regard to the Elks' 11 O'clock Toast and its origin, we must go back long before the BPOE came into existence. One of the main contributions of Charles Richardson -- in stage name of Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian and founder of the American branch of the Jolly Corks -- was to deliver into the hands of newborn Elks the rituals and traditions of a fraternal organization started in England around 1010 A.D., the Royal and Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, to which he belonged prior to coming to New York.

The RAOB, or Buffaloes as we shall henceforth refer to them, also practiced an 11 O'clock toast in remembrance of the Battle of Hastings in October of 1066.

Following his victory, William of Normandy imported a set of rules, both martial and civil in nature, to keep control of a seething Norman-Saxon population always on the edge of a revolution.

Among those rules was a curfew law requiring all watch fires, bonfires (basically all lights controlled by private citizens that could serve as signals) to be extinguished at 11 each night. From strategically placed watchtowers that also served as early fire-alarm posts, the call would go out to douse or shutter all lights and bank all fires. This also served to discourage secret and treasonous meetings, as chimney sparks stood out against the black sky. A person away from his home and out on the

darkened streets, when all doors were barred for the night, risked great peril from either evildoers or patrolling militia.

The hour of 11 quickly acquired a somber meaning, and in the centuries that followed, became the synonym throughout Europe for someone on his deathbed or about to go into battle: i.e. "His family gathered about his bed at the 11th hour," or "The troops in the

trenches hastily wrote notes to their families as the 11th hour approached when they must charge over the top."

Thus, when the 15 Jolly Corks (of whom seven were not native-born Americans) voted on February 16, 1868, to start a more formal and official organization, they were already aware of an almost universally prevalent sentiment about the mystic and haunting aura connected

with the nightly hour of 11, and it took no great eloquence by Vivian to establish a ritual toast similar to that of the Buffaloes at the next-to-last hour each day.

The great variety of 11 O'clock Toasts, including the Jolly Corks Toast, makes it clear that there was no fixed and official version until 1906-10. Given our theatrical origins, it was almost mandatory that the pre-1900 Elks would be expected to compose a beautiful toast extemporaneously at will. Regardless of the form, however, the custom is as old as the Elks."

\*Posted in [elks.org](http://elks.org)



**PSP Jerry Brien,  
Wisconsin Elks Historian**

# HATS IN THE RING FOR STATE PRESIDENT ELECT

When Jeff Miller retired from coaching for the Rice Lake School District after 35 years, Coach Barney Slowey presented him with a lapel pin shaped like a starfish. Coach Slowey went on to tell his fellow coach why he gave him that pin.



*A young boy was walking along a beach upon which thousands of starfish had washed up during a terrible storm. When he came to each starfish, he would pick it up and throw it back into the ocean. People watched him with amusement. He had been doing this for some time when a man approached him and said, "Young man, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can't save all the starfish. You can't begin to make a difference!"*

*The boy was crushed, suddenly deflated. After a few moments, he bent down, picked up another starfish and hurled it as far as he could into the ocean. Then he looked up at the old man and replied,*

***"Well, I made a difference for that one!"***

*The old man looked at the boy and thought about what he did and what he said. Inspired, he joined the boy in throwing the starfish back into the ocean. Soon others joined and all the starfish were saved.*

Jeff has worn that pin on the label of his Elks red jacket since he first became an officer. It reminds him every time he puts that jacket on that he makes a difference.

At Rice Lake Elks Lodge #1441, Jeff has continued to "throw the starfish into the ocean". A member for 19 years, he has served as our Exalted Ruler five times, including the year we celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. When we wanted to pay down our debt at the bank, he spearheaded two major fundraising campaigns. He was asked to be the chairman of our Lodge's ENF committee. Until that year we had not met the GER's goal. Every year since, we have succeeded in reaching and exceeding the GER's goal. He has been our membership chairman, trustee, mentor, and cheerleader. He is at all our events in the community, always ready to lend a hand. Nearly every Friday night, he greets all the members by name for our Friday Fish Fry and shows them to their table.

We are proud of the work he has done at the District and State levels. He served as the Vice President-Northwest District for two consecutive years and Past District Deputy to the Grand Exalted Ruler. Since then, Jeff has been appointed to several state committees and currently is the chairman of the Youth Activities committee.

Jeff made his announcement at our June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting that he was going to "throw his hat in the ring" at the Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis. The officers and members present along with our PER Association unanimously voted to endorse and support Jeff Miller for State President-Elect for the Wisconsin Elks Association so he can "keep throwing the starfish in the ocean" and continue to make a difference in the upcoming years.

★ Making A Difference ★

Sincerely,  
Donald Putnam, Exalted Ruler  
Anthony Wampfler, PER, Trustee Chair  
Rice Lake Elks Lodge #1441

	WEA - 2023 Fall Conference	
	SCHEDULE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
	<u>All MEETINGS AT THE PAPER VALLEY HOTEL</u>	ROOM
Thursday thru Sat.	Meet and Greet	REDWOOD
<u>Friday, Sept.15 2023</u>		
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Board of Directors	OAKTAG/PARCHMENT
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Benevolent Fund	OAKTAG/PARCHMENT
10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Registration	POOLDOME
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	PSP Advisory	OAKTAG/PARCHMENT
<u>Saturday, Sept. 16 2023</u>		
7:30 AM - 8:00 AM	Pres. Pres. Elect. & V.Ps (Executive Comm)	BOND
7:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Registration	POOLDOME
7:30 AM - 8:00 AM	Resolutions & Laws Committee	EBONY
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Accident Prevention	BRIARWOOD
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Americanism	PIPPIN
8:00 AM - 12:00	Ritualistic Exemplification	CROWN
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Grand Lodge Attendance	EVERGREEN
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Govt. Relations	CRIMSON
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Business Practices	SALON C
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Sec/CLMS Training	SALON D
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Hoop Shoot	PARCHMENT
7:30 AM - 12:00 AM	Recreation at Convention	LOBBY AREA
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM	State Sponsor / DDGER/Esquire	EMPIRE
9:00 AM - 11:00 PM	Elks Major Project	OAKTAG
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Publicity and Public Relations & Membership	CRIMSON
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Elks National Veterans Service	PIPPIN
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Committee for the Disabled	EBONY
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Lodge Development	BRIARWOOD
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	U.S.Constitution Contest & ENF Scholarship	ROSEWOOD
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Golf & Curling & Bowling	EVERGREEN
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	ER/Leading Knight Advisory	SALON C
10:00 AM - 12:00 AM	Drug Awareness	CRIMSON
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Youth Activities	MCINTOSH
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Elks National Foundation ENF	BRIARWOOD
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Officer Training	ROSEWOOD
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Conferences and Conventions	EVERGREEN
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Benevolent Fund Raising	At Table
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Legalized Gaming	ASPEN
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Auditing	PIPPIN
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Lodge Trustee Training	ASPEN
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Lodge Activities	SALON D
12:00 PM	Ladies Luncheon (Cocktails 11:30 AM)	CLUB HOUSE/ BAR
12:00 PM	Cocktails	SALON B
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Association Luncheon	SALON B
5:00 PM	Evening Prayer with Rev Hackbarth	BRIARWOOD
6:00 PM	Cocktails	SALON B
7:00 PM	Banquet	SALON B
<u>Sunday, Sept.17 2023</u>		
8:00 AM	General Session	SALON B



# MID-WINTER PRE-REGISTRATION FORM – DEADLINE DECEMBER 21, 2023

Mid-Winter – FEBRUARY 16-18, 2024  
RADISSON HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER, GREEN BAY  
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
<b>GUEST LUNCHEON</b>			
Turkey & Bacon Wrap	-----	_____ @\$20.00	\$ _____
Ham & Cheese Sandwich	-----	_____ @\$20.00	\$ _____
<b>ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON</b>			
Turkey & Bacon Wrap	-----	_____ @\$20.00	\$ _____
Ham & Cheese Sandwich	-----	_____ @\$20.00	\$ _____
<b>SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET</b>			
Chicken Cordon Bleu	-----	_____ @\$28.00	\$ _____
Balsamic Pork Chop	-----	_____ @\$28.00	\$ _____
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 & Bacon Wrap:** Mesquite smoked turkey breast, bacon, and provolone, diced tomatoes and shredded lettuce wrapped in an Italian herb tortilla with fresh garlic and herb Aioli. Chips Fruit cup & pickle

**Ham & Cheese Sandwich:** Slow roasted shaved ham and cheddar on a hard roll with Chips, Fruit cup & pickle

## SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET

**Chicken Cordon Bleu:** Boneless breast of chicken stuffed with an aged Gouda smoked ham and white wine on a bed of rice pilaf. Salad, vegetables, and dinner rolls

**Balsamic Pork Chop:** Balsamic, honey and Dijon glazed pork chop. Served with herb roasted baby red potatoes. Salad, vegetables, and dinner rolls

FORMS POSTMARKED AFTER DECEMBER 21, 2023 WILL BE RETURNED TO  
SENDER. YOU WILL HAVE TO REGISTER ON SITE AT A FEE OF \$25.00.

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center Green Bay. 2040 Airport Drive Green Bay, WI 53413  
T: (920) 494-7300

ROOM RATE \$89.00 Cutoff date for rooms 1/24/2024

**WISCONSIN STATE ELKS  
DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM  
POSTER CONTEST**

**"Be Kind to Your Mind – Live Drug Free"**

The winning poster from posters entered from Grades 3-5 will be sent to National DAP to be used in a future coloring book. Any poster sent to state from Grades 3, 4, or 5 should also have a release form with the poster. (Please note that Wisconsin has a bigger poster contest than National DAP. We have 4 levels while Grand has only 1.)

1. Participants must use watercolors, felt tip markers, colored pencils, pencils or crayons only.
2. NO collages of pictures, photos, computer graphics, 3-D materials, cut and paste method. No copyrighted materials will be accepted except for Elroy.
3. Poster entries can either be 8.5 x 11 or 8.5 x 24
4. Posters will be judged on originality, creativity, neatness and clarity of the idea relating to the theme.
5. A team of judges enlisted from your local lodge will judge the poster entries. Please send all entries to a lodge nearest you.
6. The first place winners chosen from each age category will be taken to be judged with other participating Elks Lodge winners throughout Wisconsin. The State Contest will be held in Appleton Feb 18th, 2024.

**AWARDS**

Cash prizes will only be awarded on the state level. (Individual lodges may have other prizes available)

GRADES 7 thru 9th

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$100.00 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$75.00 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$50.00

GRADES 4<sup>TH</sup> thru 6<sup>TH</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> place \$100.00 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$75.00 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$50.00

GRADES 2<sup>nd</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$25.00 each

GRADES K thru 1<sup>st</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$25.00 each

\*\*GRADES 4<sup>th</sup> thru 9<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> place thru 7<sup>th</sup> place for each is \$25.00\*\*

\*1 poster from either Grades 3, 4, or 5 will be selected to be sent to Elks DAP for coloring book

**ENTRY DATE**

Each lodge should establish their own deadline prior to Feb. 1, 2024

To find a Elks Lodge near you

Visit: [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org) or [www.wielks.org](http://www.wielks.org)

TEACHER or PARENTS: Tear off and tape to the back of each poster PLEASE write legibly:

---

Elks Lodge: _____	Contact: _____	Phone: _____
School Name: _____	Teacher Name: _____	
Childs Name _____	Grade: _____	
Parents Name: _____	Phone _____	
City: _____	State: WI Zip Code: _____	

# Scenes from Grand Lodge Convention



Above from left, district deputies Rick Miller, Kathy Hagen, Marla Gygli and Bruce Conard



Officer Kyle Mason of Brown County, right, was the winner of the Grand Lodge Enrique Camarena Award.



Grand Lodge Attendance Committee



Rice Lake Elks Lodge 1441 donated \$1,500 to the Youth Baseball Association of Rice Lake at a recent Free Family Fun Night on July 11 held at the City League Baseball Fields in Rice Lake.



## THE BUGLE

COPY DEADLINES

FALL CONFERENCE  
August 1

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE  
November 1

CONVENTION ISSUE  
March 1

A publication of the  
Wisconsin Elks Association



WISCONSIN **ELKS** ASSOCIATION

a fraternal organization  
1602 FOOTHILL AVE.  
SCHOFIELD, WI 54476

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

# Elks Never Forget

Our programs focus on service to veterans in need.

Community • Friendship • Charity  
[join.elks.org](http://join.elks.org)

