



The Bugle

Winter 2023



**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

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SECRETARY

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Rev. Michael Hackbarth (920) 948-9500

TILER

Nikki Shannon (608) 393-4747

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Donald Behnke (920) 923-0707

INNER GUARD

Gina Staskal (608) 318-1759

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

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

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

2024 Fall Conference:

GRAND LODGE

Grand Lodge 2024: 6/30-7/3, Austin, TX

Grand Lodge 2025: 6/29-7/2, Kansas City, MO

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advisory: Nikki Shannon

Auditing: Cindy Whalen

Credentials & Elections: Marla Gygli

Resolutions & Laws: Ryan Swantz

Membership & Lapsation: Manny Salinas III

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 Liebelt

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 Francisco

Trustee Training: Pat Moran

NEXT BUGLE DEADLINE

March 1

Email: Wisconsinelks@gmail.com

Editor: Aaron Holbrook

920-210-3178

About the cover: The top photo is the family of Tim and Kate Thomas who share their personal story about Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp on page 33. The bottom photo is Wisconsin Elks Association members who attended the respite camp breakfast in October.

It's a great day to be an Elk!

Can you believe it? We are already more than halfway through the 2023/24 year.

It has been an amazing and humbling experience serving you as your State President.

Six months ago, I set seven goals for the state, so let take a look at how we are doing so far with the goals.

1. ENF– Each Lodge to reach the Grand Exalted Ruler's Goal and a state total of at least \$110,000. Total donations are \$67,625.52. We are approximately two-thirds of the way toward the state goal of \$110,000. Becoming a member of the Fidelity Club is simple! Enroll online at: enf.elks.org/recurring and start your gift today!

2. Benevolent Fund – Raise a state total of \$27,700 (\$3.90 per person) –I understand that most of the lodges wait until the ER march to turn in the Benevolent Funds to the State, but we are currently only at \$6,255.55 or \$.91 per member.

3. State Project – Increase attendance at the three Elks events at Camp: Camp cleanup, Elks Day, and Pancake breakfast. We have had an amazing turn out at all 3 camp events including nearly 60 Elks in attendance for the camp's annual pancake fundraiser!

4. Conferences and Convention – Increase attendance at both conferences and convention including the Saturday night banquet and Sunday morning General sessions. Attendance at conferences and convention continues to grow and so does the creative ideas and programs to help all members to work as a team.

5. Calendar - Create a WEA google calendar, including all state, and lodge



events. The calendar is a huge hit and a wealth of information on all things related to the Wisconsin Elks.

6. Committees – Have each Committee create a 1-2 paragraph description of what their committee does and post the description on Facebook. This will help promote conference and convention attendance. Many of the state committees sent me a nice

description and hopefully a few more will follow.

7. Membership - Have a membership increase of at least 40 members.

We have lots of work to do for a membership increase. We currently are projected to have a loss for the year of 367 members. We have 68 candidates who are waiting to become Elks and a whopping 500 unpaid members.

I encourage every lodge to host a few 50/50 raffles and put the profits toward the state's three major charities. ENF, Benevolent fund, and the State Major Project.

Remember the road to success may be both hilly and full of curves, but if you stay on the path, you will eventually get to where you want to go.

Karl Hanke
Wisconsin Elks State President

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.

A letter from the First Lady

Hello all my Wisconsin friends. Wow! What a year we are having!!

All our visits thus far have been full of energy, excitement, and personal encouragement! I am so proud of all the programs and projects we are doing for our communities, youth, and veterans.

Keep encouraging your new members to get involved!

Proposers, find a common thread that you share with a new member and invite them to join you as you partake in a favorite of yours. We can all be better together.

The fall conference gave us all the opportunity to meet some wonderful Elks; GER Randy Shook and First Lady Wanda were such a delight and shared some great insight and advice for our order. We wish them well as they continue their journey across the country. So glad we were able to coax him out of his shell a little bit at the Saturday banquet.

Looking ahead we will be welcoming First Vice President of Illinois Roger Quinn and his wife Lisa Renae Quinn to our mid-winter conference.

President Elect and First Lady Elect Pat and Pam Moran will be their escorts for the weekend. We hope you get a chance to meet them and make them feel welcome on their visit to Wisconsin.

I would encourage you all to continue showing your support and pride to Karl and me by attending the last few remaining State President visits. It is always a good time and full of fellowship.

We had a great number of fantastic baskets to raffle off for the Benevolent Fund at the Fall conference. I would encourage all of



you to continue your support and donations. Thank you to everyone who brought or purchased tickets in support of our charity.

Please know that I am always here to listen, encourage, or help you in any way I can. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

I hope you all find a reason to rejoice and celebrate this holiday season and I pray that the New Year brings you all

good health, renewed hope, new opportunities, new adventures, and new ways to give and love. May this be your best year yet!

Annie Hanke
Wisconsin Elks State First Lady

Wisconsin Elks President Calendar 2023-2024

December 1 Green Bay
December 2 Oconto
December 9 Antigo
January 27 Milwaukee
February 9-10 Hoop Shoot
Feb. 15-18 Mid-winter conf. - 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 the State Sponsor

Greetings everyone,

It is hard to believe that winter and the holidays are upon us where we look forward to special times with our families and friends. Many of our lodges have holiday activities for their members, Santa visits for the children, holiday goodies for shut-ins and much, much more. I commend all of you for your extra efforts in bringing the joy and peace of this holiday season to those that are less fortunate than most.

I would like to thank all of you for the warm and wonderful Wisconsin welcome you gave Grand Exalted Ruler Randy Shook and First Lady Wanda at our Fall Conference. Randy even felt so at home, he auctioned off a couple of items at the Saturday night banquet and we were treated to witnessing his auctioneer skills! Our Grand and First Lady were quite impressed with our State Associations commitment to our State Project and endeavors in addition to the various Grand Lodge Programs. I know he feels our success as a State Association can be attributed to our hard work and dedication which comes from our mid-western values. As National President of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Randy is spreading the message "We are **THE** Elks" which reminds us that we can all be proud of what we do in our communities, our State and in the Nation and we want people to know about us.

As I write this message, our lodge year is more than half over. District Deputy visits have been completed and we turn our thoughts to preparations for the Wisconsin Elks Association Mid-Winter Conference in



February which will be held in Green Bay. Once again, we will have the opportunity to come together to review our progress thus far, gain new insights and information from other members and of course renew and enjoy our friendships. Unfortunately, Beth and I will not be able to attend the Mid-Winter Conference due to it conflicting with the date of my Grand Lodge Advisory Meeting. I look forward to receiving a good

report about how the conference goes! Beth and I both enjoyed being with you in September and we look forward to seeing everyone in May.

Beth and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their friendship and support this past year. We send best wishes to you and your families for a Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy New Year!

God Bless you all,



F. Louis Sulsberger
Past Grand Exalted Ruler
Wisconsin State Sponsor

From your president elect

Hello to all Wisconsin Elks
Pam and I hope you all have a great holiday season with family and friends. May the 2024 year be filled with many successes for all.

As of this writing we are a little over halfway through the State President's visits and Karl and I are both proud of the work, membership growth and programs that lodges have done during the past year. Pam and I thank you for your hospitality, great food and friendships during the past few months. It is truly amazing what you all have accomplished. Thank you!

During September, Pam and I traveled to Springfield, Illinois, to attend the Illinois State Elks, Fall Conference. It certainly was an experience we won't forget. We met so many wonderful people and were warmly greeted. I attended many of their meetings and learned that we share many of the same problems but also heard of their successes and the programs they do in their communities. At our Mid-Winter Conference, you will see Pam and I with the First Vice President of Illinois, Roger and Lisa Quinn. Please feel free to say "hi" to



both. They will be glad to meet you. They are great people and certainly fun to be with.

During our Fall Conference I attended our ER/Leading Knight Committee meeting and asked that all lodges work and apply for All American status. I do hope you are working on this program and get it submitted to Grand Lodge on time. It would be great to see Wisconsin lodges make the top 10 in Austin,

Texas, at the Grand Lodge Convention this year. By applying for this I think you will be amazed at what your lodge, big or small, does for your community.

At the mid-winter conference, I will reveal my motto for next year at the dinner on Saturday night. I hope it will be one that you will all be proud of.

Until then, please keep up the great work that you do. If we can make a positive difference in just one person's life, then we have accomplished something!

Best wishes for a prosperous New Year and safe travels to all. Pam and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Fraternally,

Pat Moran,
WEA State President Elect

Have a Heart for the Benevolent Fund

Hello Fellow Wisconsin Elks,

This February, as we meet in Green Bay, the Wisconsin Benevolent Fundraising team will be at it again. Being so close to Valentines Day, we decided to pull at your heartstrings. Our fundraiser for this conference will be our "Have a Heart" Raffle. It will be very similar to the penny raffle a few years ago. Just like the ENF is the great heart of Elksdom, The Wisconsin Benevolent Fund is the great Heart of the Wisconsin Elks. We will have hearts for you to choose and every heart will have a dollar amount associated with it and that will be your donation. You will also write your name on the heart to be placed into our "Have a Heart" raffle for some wonderful items. Some of the items include a night stay in a Bed and Breakfast in Stevens Point, a necklace and earring set (valued at over \$250), Kwik trip and Pizza Ranch gift cards and several other great prizes. So, I hope you will come and support our "Have a Heart" Raffle, and maybe go home with a great prize. You may even have the chance to meet Mr. Heart himself!!! Thank you from the bottom of our Hearts.

Rob Radig, Sr, PSP Advisor to the Benevolent Fundraising committee

Lead with the Law of Connection

Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.

Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you. Acts 17: 22-23



in our daily life. If one is holding a leadership position in an Elks lodge; many of the constructs listed above may help in activating people to work on a special project.

I'm sure that we all understand our respective community's culture; yet how well do we relate our customs with someone that has transferred from another lodge? Do we affirm their presence in

the lodge, search for *familiar* topics, use *inclusive* language, and give them *encouragement and hope*? When that new person accepts a task or leadership position in the lodge, are they given specific *action steps*?

I believe such things are probably done to some level by key personnel. Yet are all of our members aware of the constructs of the Law of Connection when meeting a new member? It seems to me that affirming a person's presence, familiarizing them with a new culture and giving them encouragement and hope will help solidify one's commitment to the lodge and unify our membership.

Remember, God loves you, and so do I.

**Blessings to all,
Rev. Mike**

In the four sermons that Luke records in the book of Acts, Peter, Stephen, and Paul all practiced the Law of Connection, which states that leaders touch a heart before they ask for a hand. Paul's sermon recorders in Acts 17 are a masterpiece with respect to this law. He connected brilliantly with people from a different culture, showing that he understood both Greek society and human needs.

Notice how a master communicator connected with his audience:

He began with affirmation.
He bridged his subjects with the familiar.
He enlarged their vision of God.
He used inclusive language.
He gave them encouragement and hope.
He identified with some of their own poets.
He gave them specific action steps.

Only when Paul had built relational bridges with the people, did he issue a clear call to repent.

It seems to me that we all have the ability to learn from a master communicator such as Paul. Many of the communication constructs itemized above can go a long way

Elks' history – 'Hello Bill!' origins

How many of you have signed into elks.org/members and have seen "Hello, Bill!" (or Billie!) has been a traditional, friendly greeting among Elks since 1897. Visit our online membership directory to connect with your fellow Elks or click one of the profiles below to send a friendly, "Hello, Bill!" greeting to a new friend? You probably wondered what that is all about since my name is Jerry (or your name). Here is the reason.

ORIGIN OF 'HELLO, BILL!'

WILLIAM GODDARD, of Minneapolis (Minn.) Lodge, No. 44, B. P. O. Elks, is the original "Hello Bill!" of Elkdom, and this cheerful salutation which has found its way around the world, originated in Minneapolis during the Elks' National Re-Union in that city in 1897. Brother Goddard is the junior partner of the Minneapolis firm of Barnaby & Company. He has been for a great many years the treasurer of Minneapolis Lodge, No. 44, B. P. O. Elks, and was Chairman of the Finance Committee, and a member of a great many other committees that had in charge the arrangements for the Elks' Re-Union of that year, and he spent a great deal of his time at the Committee headquarters.

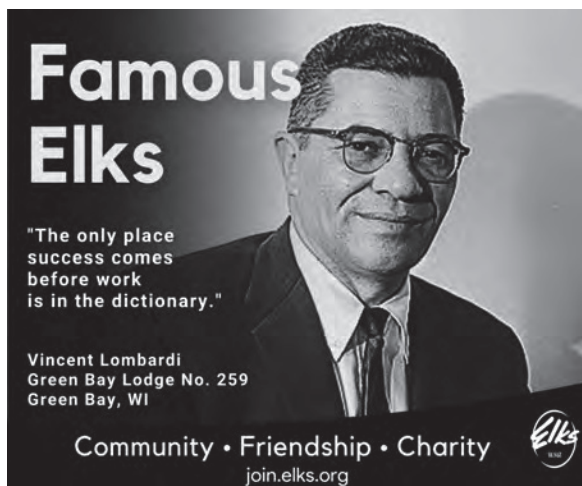
When visiting Elks came to the headquarters to inquire about matters, they wanted to know about, if they happened to meet anybody who was not fully posted, they were usually told to "Go over there and ask Billy Goddard," and it was a constant strain of "Billy can tell you," "See Billy, he knows," etc., etc. This was repeated so incessantly that the stranger Elks, when they approached Brother Goddard, greeted him with the expression, "Hello Bill! I was told to see you," etc., and so the custom started of greeting each other "Hello Bill!"

In a day or two the custom spread to the streets, with Elks from all parts of the country, and passing each other they sang out cheerfully, "Hello Bill!" and they carried the greeting back to their home lodges, and so it has spread around the ends of the earth.

**Grand Lodge History Page*

If you have never signed up for the grand lodge site elks.org you need to. There is a vast amount of information on this site. Many of our Elk's positions are required to sign up to obtain information on their area or committee.

**PSP Jerry Brien,
Wisconsin State Historian**




Famous Elks

"The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary."

Vincent Lombardi
Green Bay Lodge No. 259
Green Bay, WI

Community • Friendship • Charity
join.elks.org



Famous Elks

"Keep up your enthusiasm! There is nothing more contagious than exuberant enthusiasm."

-Harry Houdini
NY Lodge No. 1
New York, NY

Community • Friendship • Charity
join.elks.org



Northwest District Vice President T. J. Jungwirth



Hello. I am T J Jungwirth. I've been a member for 28 years at Stevens Point Lodge 641. We've had a lot of good men from this lodge serve as vice

president. My friend Tom Weller held this position at the beginning this year, but he got sick and passed away. We miss him. I wanted to fulfill his year in honor of him.

I've been blessed to volunteer in Stevens Point 641. I've been the event chairman for many years, held all the chair positions and currently I am The Exalted Ruler of the Year for 2022. I've been fortunate to volunteer with a great group of friends and members. My wife Laura has been a member for 10 years. She is the lodge secretary, and she has held that position as long as she's been a member. They say behind a good man is a great woman. I believe that wholeheartedly.

I've already have been to some State President Visits in this district and have been working with some lodges in the areas that need to be addressed. I have visited some lodges and will get to the rest before my year is done.

If I haven't met you, I'm looking forward to talking to you.

**Thank you,
T.J. Jungwirth**

South District Vice President Manny Salinas



Winter-time is here! Colder weather is upon us and the holidays are quickly approaching! It's always the season of giving with the Elks and our South District

Lodges continue promoting activities benefiting our communities, our worthy causes, and our charitable projects. I'm pleased to be able to share some of the events and activities that the South District Elks have been a part of:

Janesville #254: hosted an Evening on the Patio on Aug. 4 providing a fish and chicken buffet benefiting Elks charities. The Janesville Lodge held a Backyard Bash Cookout on Aug. 16 as a fundraiser & generated \$1,287 for Camp Wawbeek camperships. Janesville #254 held a Golf Outing (in memory of Dwight Murdy) on Aug. 22. The District Deputy GER South Clinic was held at the Janesville Lodge Aug. 26. The lodge holds a monthly cookout for the Elks National Foundation. Janesville Lodge #254 hosted a Fall Sportsman's Elks Charities Banquet on Oct. 20. Nov. 3, Janesville hosted a Charity Halloween Costume Party and dinner event with live music (benefiting Wisconsin Vest-A-Dog Organization). A Smoke & Barrel II Charity event was held Nov. 4 as a fundraiser for "Shop with a Cop."

Madison #410: Elks held a Blood Drive with the Red Cross Sept. 6. Madison #410 currently has 760 Elks members

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representing the largest membership count in Wisconsin. Oct. 4, Madison Elks participated in the Easter Seals Pancake Breakfast at Camp Wawbeek. Madison Lodge #410 participated in the Orton Park Festival Aug. 25-27, and Sessions at McPike Park Aug. 11, 12, 16, and 17. The Madison Elks Lodge will again sponsor the Toys for Tots charitable program (in 2022 \$5,000 in gifts & cash was raised by members).

Waukesha #400: Elks hosted a third annual Car Show event generating funds for the Waukesha K-9 police unit (\$13,000 has been raised in 2 years). Oct. 31, Lodge #400 held a Trick or Treat evening with Elroy the Elk and provided sweet treats for neighborhood children. Waukesha Lodge #400 has been awarded three grants this fall: Spotlight Grant (being used for "Friends with Food" pantry program), Beacon Grant (being used to host Breakfast with Santa on Nov. 25 with a focus on homeless families in Waukesha), and Gratitude Grant (being used to host another Senior Swing Dance on Nov. 17 admission is free).

Platteville #1460: Elks provided Grant presentations to Ruby's Pantry, Platteville's Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, Southwest Opportunity, The Hodan Center, Platteville's and Cassville's Food Pantries. Platteville Elks participated in the annual Dairy Days Parade with the Elks Trailor being pulled along the route. Platteville presented a part of their Beacon Grant donation to Sleep in Heavenly Peace (\$2,000). They held a brat and hotdog fundraiser on Oct. 28. Lodge #1460 used their Spotlight Grant to host a Community Baby Shower with free baby supply giveaway at the Platteville Public Library Oct. 21.

Milwaukee #46 provides a monthly \$100 give away for Teenager of the Month under Youth Activities. A total of \$545 was raised for Elk Charities by Linda's Ladies through

basket raffles at the Elks Family Picnic. Milwaukee #46 presented a check for \$565 to Brown Deer Middle / High School for their Special Education Program. A chili cookoff fundraiser for the Lodge was held Oct. 28 to generate funds for lodge expenses. The Milwaukee Lodge is now eligible for an additional \$500 to next year's Gratitude Grant due to donations of their members by helping in the ENF National Chair Challenge. Milwaukee helped generate \$1,500 in fundraising by contributing 26 bottles to the Benevolent Fundraiser at the WEA Fall Conference.

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

Faternally,

Manny Manuel Salinas, III.
Vice President South District

**Northeast District Vice
President Solomon King**



Hello
from the
Northeast
district!

We are
officially
closer to
the next
lodge year
than the
start of the
last! Where
is everyone
sitting so

far with membership, ENF donations, Benevolent Fund donations, and State Major Project donations? If you are not sure, ask your Lodge officers and find out. What can be done to improve those numbers? Do some group brainstorming and offer some ideas at your next board meeting.

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Most ideas to increase your donations could potentially also help increase your membership. A chili cook-off, pop-up raffle or even a basic dart league are great easy opportunities to supply fun activities to your members while raising donation money and gaining the interest of potential new members. That's a win, win, win situation.

As usual, the Northeast district has been busy, and I have a couple highlights to share.

Antigo #662 handed out dictionaries to 9 area elementary schools. They had fantastic support and received many "thanks". Exceptional work Antigo focusing on the youth of your community!

Kaukauna #962 participated in multiple trunk-or-treats. They took that opportunity to hand out drug awareness to youth, and Elk's information to the parents. Great idea Kaukauna to gain membership while educating your local youth!

Green Bay #259 delivered winter clothing to the public-school totaling \$1000. You truly made a difference in your community by keeping children protected from the elements. Very admirable!

Oconto #887 hosted a corn hole tournament that resulted in multiple interested new members. Prefect idea Oconto to get potential members in the door! 4

Marinette #1313 has continually had an active house during Packer games. Keep it going Marinette!

At this point, it's a great time to reflect on what your Lodge has accomplished so far. When you reflect on it, ask yourself if there is anything your Lodge could improve on the rest of the Lodge year. You have plenty of time to make changes. But those changes can only be accomplished with volunteer action.

A tip of advice, stay positive with your actions to accomplish those goals. Attaining

goals can become daunting and stressful, but only if you allow it. When I was a new member, I remember Karl Hanke and Kevin McCarthy telling me how much fun it can be to chair and work events. I thought they were crazy and just trying to trick me into working. However, I jumped in anyways and experienced it myself. I immediately learned volunteers are the drive of the Lodge, and working together to create a positive experience is a major factor in the outcome of an activity. I've been hooked ever since.

Keep Elkdome in your heart and actions. Be social, brainstorm with fellow members, and let's keep this year on the path of success!

**God bless,
Solomon King**

Central District Vice President Ryan Swantz



To the members of the Central District,

Winter is upon us and temperatures have sure gotten colder than during our summer and early fall months.

Did you know that elk in the wild do not hibernate? Now is the time that we should live further like the animal that we have derived our name from and refuse to hibernate. The cold winter months are usually when our communities need us the most. We should all look for ways to lighten the burden of those in need this winter. That is what this season is all about.

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Central District VP Ryan Swantz
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In the last few months, Beaver Dam #1540 was officially merged with Watertown #666 by Grand Lodge to form the new Watertown-Beaver Dam Lodge #666. This merger will allow the new Lodge to serve both communities with combined resources, while still allowing for their individual programs to continue and thrive.

As we navigate the winter and the holiday season, we all as Elks do some really good things in our communities. We hold Hoop Shoots to show our youth the value of fair competition and good sportsmanship; we remember our veterans who fought bravely to assure us the daily freedoms that we can so easily take for granted; we reach out to help those less fortunate to have a better holiday season by delivering food and supplies, holding Breakfast with Santa events, and the list goes on and on. Soon, we will be awarding scholarships to the bright scholars in our communities who will go on to be the leaders of tomorrow. Just thinking about all the good we do should bring you a great feeling of holiday cheer.

As we move forward, the Central District is again a shining star for the Elks National Foundation. We've surpassed the GER's goal of \$4.80 per member as a District, and every Lodge has also individually passed that goal as well. On top of that, during October, the ENF announced a new \$500 bonus for the Gratitude Grant. If your Lodge increases your fundraising by 10%, you get even more free money. This means that your Gratitude Grant can be worth up to \$4,000 by getting all the bonuses.

As we move into the later months of our Elks year, we cannot begin to rest on membership. At the end of October, our District was projected to finish the year with a plus-27 for membership (although this number might be skewed slightly due to the merger of Beaver Dam and Watertown).

We had already initiated 68 new members and reinstated 7 more, but we also had 60 delinquents. Two-thirds of our Lodges had double digit delinquencies. While finishing +27 sounds like a good number on the surface, can you imagine what it will look like if we're able to get all of those delinquent members to pay their dues and continue working with us? If you haven't done so already, make sure to reach out personally to each of your delinquent members. Instead of asking them to immediately write a check, ask them why they've let their membership go delinquent. You might want to consider reaching out through a personal and heartfelt email instead of cornering them or cold-calling them, and remind them of all the good things we do as Elks. This will allow the member time to collect their thoughts and formulate a response, especially if they are going through some difficult times or have valid reasons for not renewing their membership.

Small personal touches can make all the difference. But, as we all work diligently to reduce our lapsation, we must also not forget about our candidates in waiting. Do everything you can to initiate your candidates as quickly as possible so that they can join in the great work that we do.

If we work hard at recruiting quality Elks and reducing our lapsation, we might just finish the year with a +100 in membership for our District. Once you initiate new members, make sure to welcome them, get them engaged, and get them involved. The worst thing you can do is tell a new member that you don't need their help when they ask. Turning away an enthused member will only hurt you in the long run.

It's rather difficult to talk about doing more when our District already does so much.

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Increasing our donations to the ENF may sound impossible. Getting 60 unpaid members to bring their memberships current may sound impossible. Finishing the year at +100 for the District may sound impossible. But, it was Walt Disney who once said, "It's kind of fun to do the impossible".

Faternally,

**Ryan Swantz, PER, PDDGER
WEA Central District Vice-President**

DDGER South District Kathy Hagen



My name is Kathleen Hagen, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, South District from Janesville Lodge #254.

My team consists of my Esquire Manual

(Manny) Salinas III, Waukesha Lodge #400, my auditor Cindy Whalen, Janesville Lodge #254 and my secretary David Hagen, Janesville Lodge #254.

I have completed all the South District Lodge visits and want to report that the audits went well.

I am so proud of the South District #9680 and all the wonderful activities that they do supporting their youth, veterans, and community. I hope to see you at the Mid-Winter and remember "We are **THE ELKS!**"

**Kathy Hagen,
DDGER South District #9680**

DDGER Central District Rick Miller



As I write this letter, my team and I have completed all of our Central District Lodge visits. Our visits are considered an official evaluation

and review of the financial and physical condition of the Lodge. I am pleased to report that all Central District Lodges are in good condition. Every Lodge took the appropriate action steps mentioned in the previous year's reviews. Thank you for your efforts and hospitality during our visits.

As I reflect on the activities taking place in the District, I correlate them to "Growing the Business. As Elks, how do we grow the business?"

How many times during the last few years have we heard the comment outside of the Elks organization, "I'm unable to provide a service because I don't have enough staffing." Our organization cannot function unless we have the proper number of members to perform our activities. As an organization, we are always trying to recruit new members to grow our membership. Unfortunately, we tend to forget a select group titled "delinquent members." This year we are placing more emphasis on this group of members to maintain our growth from the previous years rather than trying to replace them. The goal of Grand Lodge is to reduce our delinquency rate to 10%. I'm proud to say, as I write this letter, the

Continued on page 14

Continued from page 13

Wisconsin Elks Association is leading the nation with a delinquency rate of 7.2%, with the Central District leading the charge at 3.8%.

As we grow our membership, we have the ability to enhance our impact in our communities. Membership growth provides the ability for more bodies to deliver much needed support that our communities desperately need.

Membership growth also provide us the resources to grow our charitable funds used to financially support our communities. Our major charitable tool, the Elks National Foundation, has financially supported countless needs of our communities for many years. As I write this letter, I am proud to say, the Wisconsin State Elks Association is currently at \$66,543 at \$9.65 per member, with the Central District contributing over \$28,162 at \$18.06 per member.

Growth in membership and ENF contributions equal positive growth in our communities. And that is what we are really all about! We are...the Elks!

Fraternally yours,

Rick Miller

DDGER Central District #9660

DDGER Northwest District Marla Gygli

Many of you know me from the registration table when you come to conferences and conventions. For those that don't, my name is Marla Gygli, from Rice Lake Lodge #1441. I am proud to serve as the District Deputy of the Northwest District. My team of Marilyn Gillies of Wisconsin Rapids #693 is the Esquire to the DD and Robert Willis of Stevens Point #641 is the Auditor. We have completed our Lodge visits and I have one word to way, WOW!!!

Not only did our travels take us on the most beautiful roads during the gorgeous fall

colors, but we also learned that the Lodges in the Northwest District are working diligently in their communities not only to practice "Elks Care, Elks Share", they are recruiting members, hosting great events in their Lodges, and doing everything they can to spread the word of Elkdom.

If you ever get the chance, visit these Lodges, they would love to share their Lodge with you. I know because of this experience; I am going to go to all the Wisconsin Lodges and as many across the country as I can!

Marla Gygli

DDGER Northwest District



At the Elks Fall Conference, State President Karl Hanke presented this award to Don Behnke, Wisconsin's Elks National Foundation Chairman, on behalf of all members, and donors to the Elks National Foundation. Wisconsin lodge ENF Chairman's combined scores were No. 2 in the nation in the Grand Exalted Rulers Chairman's Challenge. Thank you to everyone who supported the Foundation this past year. Thanks especially to every one of our Lodge and District ENF Chairman! – **Don Behnke**

Above All Elks CARE

I wanted to take the time to write about a personal experience that I had at our recent Fall Conference in which the words "Elks Care" have never had so much meaning to me, and had such an impact on me.

On Saturday, Sept. 16 while we were volunteering in the hospitality room prior to the Elks dinner banquet I noticed my wife Sarah receiving a phone call from my sister Linda who lives in San Antonio, Texas. I was surprised and a bit apprehensive at first but assumed that the call may have been a misdial by my sister; I was trying to make eye contact with my wife Sarah to gain insight on the conversation she was having. Sarah's glance to me during the call was reassuring, calm, and controlled. Ron and Nikki Shannon who were socializing with us at the time of the phone call and could sense the concern that was building in me, they too were reassuring as the phone call ended.

Sarah already knew the urgency I had regarding the call and we walked into the hallway outside the hospitality room where she relayed my sister's message. I was told that my father's health had rapidly declined and his immediate prognosis was grave; I was urged by family members to travel to Texas as soon as possible to be with him during his final days. I was obviously stunned by the news and felt that I was not mentally registering the significance of what was now taking place at our home in Kingsville, Texas.

Sarah in her concern for me asked if I felt we should leave the conference to make arrangements for my flight to Texas to be with family. I was feeling unsure and overwhelmed at that moment, but decided we should just keep the information on my father's health private and should carry-on with the evening's event and then leave directly after Sunday's General Session. We dressed for the evening banquet, and

decided we would honor my father in quiet silence for the remainder of the conference.

As the banquet was getting started and people were settling into their seats, my mind began to think back over the years with my father and our special moments together. I told my wife that I was getting a bit emotional and wanted to excuse myself from the table to compose my feelings. While walking out of the room I noticed Rev. Michael Hackbarth standing on his own and was compelled to ask him for a few minutes of his time. Rev. Mike kindly asked me to join him in the chapel room where he had given his evening prayer service earlier that afternoon. Rev. Hackbarth and I began to speak and I told him the dire news on my father that I had been given only a short time ago. He took my hands in his and provided words of prayer, comfort, and compassion for me, my father, and all those in my family. Rev. Mike gave me peace and strength to carry on in that moment; I felt an incredible feeling of warmth, and a sense of calm came over me as I knew everything was going to be just fine.

As word of my father's condition began to spread among our Elks family, Sarah and I were met with such a genuine expression of CARE from Elk members, officers, and from dignitaries who provided words of comfort and encouragement to us. I will never forget the outpouring of kindness, prayers, support, and love shown to me and for my extended family.

I have full faith and confidence knowing that at that moment when I received the difficult news about my father, that I was predestined to be with my Elks family at the conference; God knew I would be in good hands of those who truly CARE.

I was blessed to be at my father's side when he peacefully passed away on Friday, Sept. 29 at 92 years of age.

With heartfelt thanks,

Manny, Manuel Salinas, III

"Hats in the Ring"
State President Elect
Wisconsin Elks
Association



During the 2022-2023 Elk Year, Waukesha Lodge of Elks No 400, motioned to support the candidacy of Jason Somers PER, for the position of Wisconsin Elks State President Elect.

This motion was unanimously approved by the membership of the Waukesha Elks Lodge and still to this day, members continue to support Jason Somers PER on this journey of representing our fine state.

Jason has served the Waukesha Elks Lodge with exemplary leadership in the roles of the chairs, and 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, generates and supports ideas and activities for the Lodge and Elksdom. He makes sure that we follow the rules and regulations of not only the B.P.O.E., but also the city of Waukesha, County of Waukesha, and the State of Wisconsin.

What is popular is not always right. What is right is not always popular. Jason keeps Waukesha 400 on the right path. He reads the rules, and bylaws needed to keep the organization on the right track and shares his knowledge with others. He is willing to listen to and support different ways of accomplishing tasks and events.

Jason also serves the Lodge by working on the cooking crew for Lodge Friday Fish Fry activities, Bingo Sundays, Brew City Wrestling, and many other Lodge events. He will take a broom, and clean where needed, wiping off tables, washing dishes, carrying out trash, or even bartending. Ask, and he is ready to help.

At the Waukesha Elks 400 Lodge he has served as: Past Exalted Ruler, Past Chairman of the Board of Directors, ENF Chairman, Officer of the Year 2020-2021, Exalted Rulers Exemplary Elk Award 2019-2020, GER Outstanding Service Commendation 2018-2019.

For the Wisconsin Elks Association, Jason has served as: WEA Grand Lodge Attendance Chairman, WEA Conferences & Conventions Vice-Chairman, WEA Past Lodge Activities Chairman, WEA Past Publicity & Public Relations Vice-Chairman, Past Vice President South District, GL Past DDGER Auditor South District.

Outside of the Elks, Jason has also been involved in his family activities: Assistant Scoutmaster Muskego Troop 19, BSA Oakleaf Leadership Trained, St Paul's Lutheran Eaglebots Robotics Coach, Muskego High School Robotics Mentor. But most importantly, a dedicated father to his three amazing children: Mikala, Isaiah and Stephanie.

Jason is endorsed not only by the membership of the Waukesha Elks Lodge No. 400, but also by the Past Exalted Rulers of the Waukesha Elks Lodge No. 400.

On Behalf of Waukesha Lodge of Elks No. 400's Exalted Ruler, Dan Desjardin, the members, and Arlyn Clarksen PER, Secretary Waukesha Lodge of Elks, we are honored to submitted this letter of support for Jason Somers PER to the Wisconsin Elks State Membership for WEA 2024-2025 State President Elect.



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 100th 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 13th 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



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 15th Day of May 2023

Terri Breese, Exalted Ruler
Watertown Lodge #666

Dave DeRosier Hat in the Ring Trustee South District

Dave DeRosier became a member of the Elk's, in 1972, in Superior Lodge #403. After going through all the chairs, he became ER in 1979 – 1980

Served as VP of the Northwest district from 1980-1981 and then appointed District Deputy for 1982 – 1983.

He has served on multiple state committees including Youth Activities and the Committee for the Disabled.

In 1988 a job opportunity moved him, his wife Kate and her children to Milwaukee. He immediately joined Milwaukee Lodge #46 and became active as the Lodge Esquire for the 1989-1990 lodge year. In 1992 he was elected as trustee for the South district.

In 1995 he was elected as President Elect and became State President the following year, making major changes to the investments for the WI Benevolent Fund with the blessing of State Sponsor PGER Bob Sabin.

Served on the Benevolent committee for several years.
He is now serving as trustee for the South district and has been the chairman of the board for the past 5 years

Hat in the ring for Vice President South District

Hello fellow Elks brothers and sisters, let me start by introducing myself. My name is Dan DesJardin and I have been a member of Waukesha Lodge #400 for 17 years. I am married to my lovely wife Lisa for 37 years and have raised our 2 kiddos one of which is also a

member of our great organization. You can ask Lisa, I am a full blooded Elk and all that Elks stand for and do for our communities, youth and veterans.

I was Lecturing Knight in 2020, Loyal in 2021, Leading Knight in 2023 and Exalted Ruler in 2023.

\Received Grand Lodge Outstanding Service Award in 2020 and was Waukesha Lodge #400 Officer of the Year in 2021



I have been on the State Bowling Committee for almost 10 years now and serving as Vice chair for the past 3 years

I am a Fidelity Club member as I see the importance of ENF

NEW member of Grand Lodge attendance committee

At our Lodge you will most likely find me in our Kitchen an I am a member of our volunteer cooking team for

Bingo, wrestling, TMC dance, vendor fairs and anything else that needs our kitchen when it comes to food preparation and service.

I live and breathe Elks and what we stand for and would love to continue doing this as a Vice President of our state association.

I would like to ask for your support of this goal at our Spring Convention.

Fraternally, Dan DesJardin

HATS IN THE RING

State Trustee--South

Kevin Lonien has been employed at Rolite Company/PuraWellness Labs LLC since 1983. First as Plant Manager and as VP Operations for the last 35 years.

Kevin joined the Elks on May 9, 2003, and was immediately urged to run for Trustee in a Special Election for a vacant position in July. He won that position and then ran for a full term being a Trustee from 2003-2008. He was then encouraged to go through the Chairs. Following is a list of accomplishments as an Elk:

2009-2010	Esteemed Lecturing Knight
2010-2011	Esteemed Loyal Knight
2011-2012	Esteemed Leading Knight
2012-2013	Exalted Ruler
2013-2014	Esteemed Leading Knight
2014-2015	Exalted Ruler
2016-Present	Lodge Secretary
2017-2018	VP South District
2019-2020	DDGER South District

Awards

2006-2007	Committee Chairperson of the Year
2008-2009	Officer of the Year
2016-2017	Officer of the Year
2018-2019	Chauncey Yockey Award (Lifetime Services)
2021-2022	Officer of the Year
2022-2023	PER of the Year

Other Lodge Activities

2006-2009	Plugs President
2003-Present	Agent for Food and Tavern Licenses
2007-2012	Representative on State Ritual Team at Nationals
2011-Present	Bingo Committee Chairman

State Committees

2003-Present	Member Ritualistic Committee
2013-Present	Chairman Legalized Gaming
2021-Present	Vice Chair Auditing



Hat in the ring for State Trustee – South District



Janesville Elks Lodge 254
2100 N. Washington Street, Janesville, WI 53548
608-752-2342
janesvilleelks@elks254.org

The officers of Janesville Lodge 254 wholeheartedly recommend Ron Whalen for the position of State Trustee for the South District. Having known Ron for many years we can attest to his unwavering commitment, dedication and service to the Elks.

Ron's 33 years as a member of the Elks is a testament to his dedication. For 27 years Ron was a member of Walworth Lakeland Lodge 2201, where he held the office of Treasurer for 9 years, and served as Trustee for 10 years. He chaired the Board of Directors multiple times.

As a member of the Janesville Lodge, Ron served as Treasurer for 2 years and is currently Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, as well as South District Chair.

At the State level he has been a member of the Scholarship Committee for several years and is Co-Chair of the Americanism Committee. He is also a member of the State Constitution and Youth Activities Committee, showing his leadership and passion for the Elks.

Ron and his wife Cindy have been married for 42 years and are blessed with three children and six grandchildren. Both have been active contributors of the Elks for years, extending their service at both the local and state levels.

We firmly believe that Ron Whalen is the ideal candidate for the position of State Trustee of the South District. We sincerely hope you will consider our recommendation and lend him your support and vote for this well-deserved appointment.

David Nitze, Sr.
Exalted Ruler

Dale Fulton
Chairman Board of Directors

HATS IN THE RING VICE PRESIDENT CENTRAL



The Past Exalted Rulers Association, Officers of the Lodge, and Members of Sheboygan Lodge #299 proudly endorse and submit the name of Reverend Gregory Whelton, Past Exalted Ruler for the position of Vice-President of the Central District for the term of 2024-2025.

Upon retiring from the ministry, Reverend Greg served as Exalted Ruler of Sheboygan Lodge for the term of 2022-2023. Rev Greg has served his Lodge as Chaplain, is the Chairman for several Fund-Raising Programs within his Lodge and chairs several member events as a dedicated ELK.

Rev Greg is a 14-year member of Sheboygan Lodge #299.

We ask for your support for Reverend Greg Whelton, PER of Sheboygan Elks Lodge #299 for Vice-President of the Central District of the Wisconsin Elks Association for the term of 2024-2025.

Fraternally,

Bob Hiers, Past Exalted Ruler
President – Sheboygan Elks Lodge #299
Past Exalted Rulers Association

Ken Bruckner, Past State President
Secretary/Treasurer – Sheboygan Elks Lodge #299
Past Exalted Rulers Association

HAT IN THE RING



**Candidate for the Office of
TRUSTEE – CENTRAL DISTRICT
Wisconsin Elks Association**

**TONY VOULGARIS, PSP
Oshkosh Elks Lodge #292**

Hats in the ring for Central District Vice-President



The Officers and Members of Oshkosh Elks Lodge #292, along with the Officers and Members of the Past Exalted Ruler's Association of Oshkosh Elks Lodge #292, proudly announce their unanimous support of Greg Mezera for the office of Central District Vice-President of the Wisconsin Elks Association.

Greg was initiated into the Order of Elks in 2016 as a Member of Oshkosh Lodge #292. During his 8 years as a member, he first served as Inner Guard, then progressing through the chairs serving as Exalted Ruler in 2022-2023. In the current 2023-2024 lodge year, he presently serves as Lodge Trustee and Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Under Greg's direction as Exalted Ruler, a lodge membership challenge culminated with the addition of 61 new members and an additional 3 re-instatements being added to our lodge roster. Greg was named "Officer of the Year" in 2019-2020 and again in 2021-2022 while being awarded the Grand Exalted Ruler "Outstanding

Service Commendation" in 2020-2021. He is also credited with instituting and publishing the "weekly update" letter informing members with updates and reminders for events and things happening at the lodge.

On a State level, he currently serves the Wisconsin Elks Association as a member on the Membership/Lapsation Committee as well as the Accident Prevention Committee. Greg's dedication to ritual has earned him 1st Place finishes in the "Esteemed Leading Knight", "Exalted Ruler" and "Flag Charge" ritual parts in the Wisconsin Elks Association State individual ritual competitions. He was chosen and honored to represent the State of Wisconsin in the "Flag Charge" at the 2023 Elks National Convention Ritual Competition in Minneapolis Minnesota last July.

Greg and his lovely wife Barb have been married for over 24 years. He retired from Oshkosh Corporation after working for 43 years and his wife Barb retired from Oshkosh Architectural Door after 34 years of service. Barb has been at his side as a companion and friend, as well as his wife, and has been supportive of all his Elk projects that he has undertaken at all levels of his involvement. She currently serves as the Lodge Inner Guard along-side Greg as a Trustee.

Because of Greg's dedication and commitment to the Order of Elks on all levels, the Officers and Members of Oshkosh Elks Lodge #292, along with the Officers and Members of the Past Exalted Ruler's Association, do hereby support and endorse Greg Mezera as a candidate for the Office of Central District Vice-President of the Wisconsin Elks Association. As Elks, we ask that you please consider joining us in supporting Greg in this important endeavor.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Deb Schreiber,

Exalted Ruler Oshkosh 292

Jeannie Lange, President


President PER Association, Oshkosh 292

**111th Annual Wisconsin Elks Association
Bowling Tournament --- 2024
Sheboygan Lodge #299 March 9, 2024 to March 31, 2024**

**Reserved Entries Close December 15, 2023
Squad Times Available: Saturdays 10:00AM (S/D) & 3:00 PM (T)
Sundays 10:00 AM (T) & 1:00 PM (S/D)**

**Entries remain open until the beginning of the First Shift on the last scheduled Tournament day.
All EVENTS AT: Sheboygan Elks Lodge #299, 1943 Erie Ave., Sheboygan, WI 53081 Phone: 920-452-9911**

Name of Team: _____ **Please Print Clearly**

National ID #	List Bowlers in the order which they will bowl.	Ave.	 USBC Certified Tournament Prize Fee per event.....\$ <u>5.00</u> Expense Fee per event.....\$ <u>3.00</u> Bowling Fee per event.....\$ <u>12.00</u> Total Entry Fee per event \$ <u>20.00</u> All events Fee Included in Entry
	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
Captain:			
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Home Phone:			Work or cell:

Reserved/Preferred Date and Squad Time: 1. _____ 2. _____
(Saturdays and Sundays Only)

Doubles and Singles Event (Entrants in Doubles event must also bowl singles)

National I.D.	Pos.	Name	Ave.
	1.		
	2.		
	1.		
	2.		
	1.		
	2.		

The Undersigned certifies that the players listed on this entry form are bona fide members of _____ Elks Lodge # _____ to whom competition has been restricted.
Signature of Lodge Secretary or Bowling Chairman _____

Notice: All remittances must be made in full, and accompany Entry Forms in the form of a money order, Lodge Bank Draft, or Business Check payable to:

Wisconsin Elks Bowling Tournament 2024

Send entries to: Brandon Moenning
2427 Playbird Road
Sheboygan, WI 53083
Phone: 920-287-1419 / Email: moenning23@gmail.com



**JOIN THE
“PREMIER” ELKS
NATIONAL HOSPITALITY
GROUP IN THE NATION!**

We have had numerous members asking us how they can be part of the WEA Grand Lodge Attendance Committee. We are excited to have so much interest, but we want to make sure all are aware of what it means to be on the GLAC.

Expectations:

- 1) Make the commitment to attend National Convention “every” year and attend from set up, through tear down.
(Typically, a 7-day span. The financial responsibility is yours)
- 2) Attend GLAC Committee Planning Meetings (In Person & Via Zoom)
- 3) Be able to take initiative (keep food tables full and fresh, do dishes, make food, clean tables, sell 50/50 and raffle tickets, etc.)
- 4) Assist in keeping a safe and fun environment.
- 5) Have the willingness to work whenever/wherever needed. (OUR GOAL is to gain enough members to have shifts, but we are not there yet)
- 6) Be part of creating a home away from home and making memories.

Reach out to Chairman Jason Somers (jason.p.somers@gmail.com), or even Vice-Chairman Sam Demmin & Jeannie Lange for more information.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM – DEADLINE MARCH. 30, 2024

STATE CONVENTION – MAY.2TH-MAY. 5TH, 2024
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
SPOUSE/GUEST LUNCHEON			
Turkey Breast Sandwich	-----	@ \$20.00	\$ _____
OR			
Chef Salad	-----	@ \$20.00	\$ _____
ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON			
Turkey Breast Sandwich	-----	@ \$20.00	\$ _____
OR			
Chef Salad	-----	@ \$20.00	\$ _____
SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET			
Chicken Cordon Bleu	-----	@ \$28.00	\$ _____
OR			
Baked Haddock	-----	@ \$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 Breast Sandwich: Sliced oven roasted turkey, lettuce, tomato, Swiss cheese, sundried tomato aioli on artisan ciabatta roll & Bacon Ranch Pasta Salad & *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:

Chicken Cordon Bleu: Breaded Boneless Breast of Chicken filled with Ham and Gruyere Cheese, finished with Supreme Sauce.

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

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

FORMS POSTMARKED AFTER MARCH. 30, 2023 WILL BE RETURNED TO
SENDER. YOU WILL HAVE TO REGISTER ON SITE AT A FEE OF \$25.00.

NO MEAL TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABE ON SITE

Below please find the online booking link for May also they can call central reservations at 800-774-1500 ask for the Hilton Appleton Paper Valley Hotel dates and the WI Elks Association Block -Booking Code ELK.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?cityhocr=ATWPHH&groupCode=ELK&arrivaldate=2024-05-02&departuredate=2024-05-05&cid=OM,WWW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

	WEA - 2023 Mid Winter SCHEDULE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
		ROOM
	Meet & Greet	Plaza Club
Friday, Feb. 16 2024		
9:00 AM-10:30 AM	B.O.D.	Bear Room
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Benevolent Fund	Bear Room
12:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Registration	Long Hall Way
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	PSP Advisory	Bear Room
Saturday, Feb.17 2024		
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Registration	Long Hall Way
7:30 AM - 8:00 AM	Executive Committee	Oneida
7:30 AM - 8:00 AM	Resolutions & Laws Committee	Tuscarora
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Accident Prevention	Mohawk
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Americanism	Michigan
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Ritualistic Exemplification	Cayuga
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Govt. Relations	Huron
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Grand Lodge Attendance	Seneca
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Business Practices	Bear
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Sec/CLMS Training	Ontario
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Hoop Shoot	Turtle
8:00 AM - 12:00 AM	Recreation at Convention	To be Determined
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM	State Sponsor / DDGER/Esquire	Oneida
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Elks Major Project	Mohawk
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Publicity and Public Relations & Membership	Turtle
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Committee for the Disabled	Tuscarora
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Lodge Development	Onondaga
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	U.S.Constitution Contest &ENF Scholarship	Seneca
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	ER/Leading Knight Advisory	Bear
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Youth Activities	Huron
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Elks National Foundation Vets.	Michigan
10:00 AM - 12:00 AM	Drug Awareness	Huron
10:00 AM - 11:00 PM	Conferences and Conventions	Seneca
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Elks National Foundation	Bear
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Benevolent Fund Raising	At their Table
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Legalized Gaming	Mohawk
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Curling/Golf/Bowling	Ontario
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Officer Training	Turtle
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Auditing	Tuscarora
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Lodge Activities	Onondaga
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Lodge Trustee Training	Mohawk
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM		
11:30 AM	Spouse's Luncheon (Cocktails 10:30 AM)	Grand Council Ball Room
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Association Luncheon	Wolf Room
1:30PM -3:30	MP March	Wolf Room
5:00 PM	Evening Prayer with Rev Hackbarth	Michigan
6:00 PM	Cocktails	Wolf Room
7:00 PM	Banquet	Wolf Room
Sunday, Feb.18 2024		
8:30 AM	General Session	Wolf Room

Ritual Competition info for Midwinter Conference

- 1) Saturday morning 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- 2) Whenever a person is available, they can sign up and perform. There will NOT be a set time for any position.
 - If desired, the performing member may bring in another member to give their charge.
- 3) 11 O' Clock Toast (4 divisions):
 - ER Only; Current Loyal Knights; Open (for any member in good standing) and PER's
 - ER ONLY:
 - a) The winning ER will have the choice to attend the next Grand Lodge Convention and perform in the 11 O'Clock Toast Competition. If the ER does not wish to attend, the next highest score in either the ER or PER competition will have the opportunity.
 - b) The committee will reimburse up to \$500.
- 4) Flag Tribute:
 - a) This is the part of initiation where the E.R. picks up the flag and hands to the new member.
 - b) The competition will begin when a committee member raps the gavel 3 times.
 - c) The winning competitor will have the choice to attend the next Grand Lodge Convention and perform in the national competition.
 - If the winning competitor does not wish to attend, the next highest score will have the opportunity.
 - The committee will reimburse up to \$500.
- 5) Individual positions (ER, Leading Knight, Loyal Knight, Lecturing Knight, Esquire and Chaplain):
 - Current officers only. This is NOT an open competition.
 - ER Only; Current Loyal Knights; Open (for any member in good standing) and PER's

All this information and the wording for each competition was handed out at the Fall Conference. Please check with your Exalted Ruler or you can contact me.

Fraternally,

Ben Godlewski - WEA Ritualistic Exemplification Chairman

414 – 507 – 8940

bgodlewski400@gmail.com

To all drug awareness chairmen and/or lodges

I am bringing to the midwinter conference all the drug awareness materials. Pens, etc. Be advised if you do not have someone from your Lodge attending this conference,

You will not receive your allotment of supplies. If you contact me ahead of time about your allotment you can set up an appointment to pick up from me in Watertown.

All extra will be given away at the conference. Also, if you cannot attend my meeting, I will be available Friday and Saturday, all items will be in our vehicle. We will do our best before February to deliver to as many Lodges that we can.

Cristine Crum, WEA Drug Awareness Committee Chair

FREE MONEY

Did you know that the State Youth Activities Committee has money that EVERY lodge can earn? We have a budget of \$8700.00, and EVERY lodge can earn a minimum of \$310.00.

HERE IS HOW IT WORKS

1. Do an event for the youth (except Hoop Shoot).
2. Fill out the form found on the State Website, under forms.
3. Mail your receipts or cancelled checks relating to the event.
4. Send to: Jeff Miller, 35 Reuter Ave. Rice Lake, WI 54868 or, Email me: jmiller@lampertlumber.com any questions, please call @ 715-651-6534

Requests for money will be taken until March 1st 2024

You can send in multiple requests.

We currently have 11 lodges who have NOT submitted a request.

There is still \$3440.00 dollars remaining.

We need to hear from these 11 lodges:

ANTIGO, ASHLAND, BEAVER DAM, JANESVILLE, MARSHFIELD,
NEENAH-MENASHA, PORTAGE, SUPERIOR, WATERTOWN, WAUSAU,
AND WISCONSIN RAPIDS.

The Youth Activity Committee

Youth Activity Chairman

Jeffery A. Miller, Rice Lake 1441



WISCONSIN *Elks* ASSOCIATION
a fraternal organization



Ken Johnson, Secretary • Office: 715-355-0758 • Email: elksbugle@aol.com 1602
FootHill Avenue, Schofield, WI 54476

COMMITTEE NAME:

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

BUDGET REQUEST:

BUDGET YEAR:

BUDGET YEAR
ACCOUNT #
LAST YEAR BUDGET:
LAST YEAR SPENT:

(TO BE FILLED IN BY STATE SEC'Y)

DUE BY APRIL 1

Please explain in detail on the page how the requested funds will be used. Miscellaneous should not exceed 5% of your request. When the amount has been approved by the Wisconsin Elks Association Board of Directors and the budget passed, the items listed are approved for expenditures. If expenses occur that are not listed, ***prior authorization MUST COME FROM*** the Wisconsin Elks Association Board of Directors. Please use additional pages as needed for the list.

NOTE: All requests for remaining funds for the current year must be submitted to me by **March 1st**. **After March 1st, the accounts are closed.**

This form is available on the web site (wielks.com) under Publications/Forms. Please fill it out and e-mail it to me at elksbugle@aol.com (***preferred method***) or mail to Ken Johnson, State Secretary, WEA, 1602 FootHill Avenue, Schofield, WI **by April 1st**. **Every committee must have a form on file.**

Messenger bag sale benefits WBF

Once again, these wonderful WEA messenger bags are being offered for sale. Anyone interested in one of these for themselves or as a gift, please let me know. I will have these at the mid-winter in Green Bay. The price on these are \$25, and all profits from these will be donated to the Wisconsin Benevolent Fund.

Please contact me by phone, text or email if you have any questions.

920-344-8093

Robradig@gmail.com



WISCONSIN ELKS RAFFLE

Please don't forget to bring your raffle items to the Conference. We have been able to do good things for the Benevolent Committee because of the raffle. The more raffle prizes we have, the more money we seem to raise so please, whether it be a basket, a blanket, tools, gardening items, jewelry or anything else you can think of, bring it along to the Conference. The Wisconsin Elks have so many needs; won't you please help us raise the money to help them? Your donations make it possible.

Thanks

Eau Claire 402 helps veterans

Oct., 14 Eau Claire, WI Elks Lodge #402 Grants Coordinator Patrick Mattson presents Charles, a recently housed Veteran from Tomah, with an Elks Welcome Home Kit. Upon receiving his kit Charles mentioned how grateful he was because he had been planning to go to Walmart to purchase cleaning and hygiene supplies for his new apartment. Since Sept. 5,, Lodge #402 has purchased 14 kits and distributed them via Sofas For Service to newly housed Veterans; the total value of these kits is \$3,900. Lodge #402 thanks the National Elks Veterans' office for reimbursing these costs and for the opportunity to help Veterans.

Earlier this year, Lodge #402 used a \$1,727 Wisconsin Elks Association grant to purchase bedding and fifteen (15) 71-piece Kitchen-In-A-Box sets for Sofas For Service to distribute to needy Veterans. Patrick along with Kenny Lane,



Lodge #402 Veterans Chair, coordinates the lodge's Welcome Home Kit program.



Wisconsin Adaptive Sports Association Milwaukee Eagles Wheelchair Lacrosse Team, which is comprised of many disabled veterans, had a great 2023 season. There are only 3 tournaments offered by Wheelchair Lacrosse USA, the governing body. Milwaukee Eagles took gold for all three tournaments, including the National Championship. Milwaukee Elks have been a great supporter for this community and disabled veterans' team to reach their highest goal this season.



Elks will welcome Thomas Family

The State Major Project Committee is pleased to have as our guests, Kate Thomas and her family for the Mid-Winter Conference Banquet. Kate's mother, Laura, has provided the following very personal perspective on what the Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp means to not only Kate, but the entire family.

As Wisconsin Elks, we should all be very proud of our contributions to a program that touches the lives of families who need and deeply appreciate our support. (See their photo on the cover).

Thomas Family shares their story

Tim and I were married in 2001, and life brought us to Reedsburg, Wisconsin, as we pursued job opportunities in the area. Little did we know how much this community would come to mean to us, and how ideally situated it was going to be in the future.

In 2003 our son Hayden was born, shortly followed by Joshua in 2004. Our daughter Grace was born in 2009 and we welcomed twin daughters Emily and Kate in 2011. While we never really discussed how large a family we hoped for, we feel blessed to call these five amazing kiddos our own.

A twin pregnancy introduces different reasons for monitoring. Our girls were going to be named Emily Lauren and Katherine Eileen. We call her Kate or Katie. And, she had a secret. During the ultrasound, it was determined that Kate would be born with a congenital heart

defect. More importantly, the type of heart defect pointed to the strong assumption that Kate was going to be a person with Down syndrome.

We focused on what was going to be needed to fix Kate's heart. Even before she was born, we met the team of providers who knew the plan – and more importantly gave us all the reasons to remain hopeful.

Kate's heart was fixed at AFCH when she was 3 months old. We still celebrate every Dec. 14 as "Heart Day" because of what it means to our family.

We are very lucky. Kate's heart repair was the main medical hurdle we needed to cross. And we know That for many families that is not always the case. Kate dealt with some typical struggles. Ear infections and sinus infections plagued her for many years. But now as a 12-year-old middle schooler, it takes a lot to keep her down.



A special needs parent might tell you that often there is a need to experience tremendous grief in order to fully appreciate unbelievable joy. We grieved Kate's diagnosis, simply because it was different than expected. We were uncertain how it would impact her sibling relationships, and what decisions we might need to make professionally.

In time, Tim and I have learned to not get caught up in the future "what ifs?" and instead stay in the moment. One beautiful aspect of life with Kate is that the pace is slower. Meeting Kate's needs causes one to shift perspective or priority and allows us to truly understand

what it means to celebrate each accomplishment. There truly is unbelievable joy found in everyday moments.

The sibling relationships we worried about are instead some of the strongest bonds we will ever encounter. Siblings help hold each other accountable. The way Kate's brothers and sisters expect her to carry her own weight around the house is exactly what she needs to help her become as independent as possible. And now that they are older and better understand how to connect with

Kate, there is a willingness to meet her where she needs them. They too are learning how to celebrate everyday moments with her. They are her fiercest defenders and we no longer worry about the future knowing they will be there for Kate.

In a busy family, Kate understands that her siblings are involved in many extracurricular activities. She is their loudest cheerleader. She's sat in the stands at many basketball games, and on the sidelines for many tennis matches. When Kate was able to start swimming lessons, we were so excited for her. Swimming is one of Kate's favorite activities – other than bowling. This year she gets to participate in Special Olympics.

But if there is anything that Kate loves the most....it is going to Easter Seals camp. For the past few years, Kate has attended either respite weekends or summer week-long sessions. The first time we brought her to camp, Kate looked at me and said "Mom, you can go now."

She just knew this was going to be fun and it was all for HER. Camp allows her to meet

new friends, demonstrate her independence, try new things, and sing her heart out during the talent show. Camp offers what she hopes for each time she attends. And when she comes home the change is obvious. She

reminds us "I can do it myself" and we remind ourselves not to hover.

The joy that Kate experiences when we pull into the camp parking lot, and as we drive away, brings tears to our eyes every time. Seeing her happy is all we hope for, and the camp opportunities through Easter Seals makes this possible.

One aspect of camp is what it does for Kate. But there is a very real reason

why the word respite is used in the description. The other aspect is what camp does for us. Sometimes, being a special needs parent and family means you carry a "backpack" of worries around all day. You may not realize how heavy it gets, because you just keep moving forward. But when someone gives you the opportunity to take off that "backpack", you realize how you different you feel. You don't need a lot of time but just enough to feel the "weight" shifted.

When Kate attends camp, we and her siblings get that opportunity to recharge – both physically and mentally. And we've learned to accept these camp opportunities knowing that it is both rewarding for Kate and us all at the same time. Walking into the registration hall means walking into a room of people who all understand. There is no need to explain. It's truly an opportunity to exhale and connect with others who are on the same journey.

Trust looks different when you have a child who may not be able to fully advocate



for themselves. The team at Easter Seals takes this trust relationship very seriously and we have every confidence that Kate is well cared for while at camp.

When we came to Reedsburg, we had no idea that just a few miles away in the Wi Dells would be this camp that would come to mean so much to us. We're just a few years in, but we look forward knowing that Kate will have this opportunity as an adult too. We remain grateful for the support of others who make camp possible, either through funding or by volunteering time and talents.

Thank you. For what it means to Kate and what it means to all of us.

The Thomas Family



Tim and Laura, Hayden, Joshua, Grace, Emily and Kate



THE BUGLE

COPY DEADLINES

SPRING ISSUE
March 1

SUMMER ISSUE
June 1

FALL ISSUE
August 1

WINTER ISSUE
November 1

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ELKS

To Our Absent Members

Eleven O'Clock Toast

You have heard the tolling of 11 strokes. This is to remind us that with Elks, the hour of 11 has a tender significance. Wherever Elks may roam, whatever their lot in life may be, when this hour falls upon the dial of night, the great heart of Elkdom swells and throbs. It is the golden hour of recollection, the homecoming of those who wander, the mystic roll call of those who will come no more. Living or dead, Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken. Morning and noon may pass them by, the light of day sink heedlessly in the West, but ere the shadows of midnight shall fall, the chimes of memory will be pealing forth the friendly message, "To our absent members."

May they never be forgotten.

Community • Friendship • Charity
elks.org

