

# THE LEGEND

## Newsletter of the Kinderhook Elks

DECEMBER 2022



To the Members and Friends of the Kinderhook Elks,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. I find it quite hard to believe that we're entering the last month of 2022 already. It goes by so fast and November was no exception.

Saturday, November 5th was our lodge's visitation by District Deputy GER Linda Rowse, her inspection team, and State Vice-President William Mellan. I can not express sufficiently the gratitude to all the people that made this visitation remarkable. First to our secretary PSP Jerry Shook and treasurer PER Joe Laviano for the remarkable job with the inspection and audit team. A huge thanks to Abby Shook and her crew for the grand appetizer table; both the setting and food were amazing. To PDD Leo Buell, PDD Chris Akers and PER John Utley and the officers of Kinderhook Lodge #2530, thank you all so much for your time and energy in performing an incredible Ritual. Finally, thank you to all the members of our lodge for attending. It was a splendid thing for the 3 new members to experience.

We honored our Veterans during Wednesday, Nov. 9th with a dinner. All were welcome with Veterans and spouses being free of charge. Joe Laviano and his crew did an absolutely astounding job in serving over 140 roast beef dinners.

On November 20th, was a Wreath making event at the lodge. There was a great turnout and everyone had a great time.

Then on November 25th, we held our annual Trim-A-Tree decorating event. Thanks to all those that turned out, ate, drank and decorated; the lodge looks so festive.

For December, in addition to our usual activities, we have a few important events happening. First is that Sunday, December 4th is the annual Memorial Service. The Officers of the Kinderhook Lodge of Elks will perform the Ritual of Memorial Services in remembrance of all deceased members. The ceremony will be conducted at the Lodge. This is the most solemn ceremony in our Order and all Elks members are encouraged to attend.

Also starting on the 4th is the Marion Stegmann Fund week; with the delivery date being on the 10th; please signup, especially drivers and helpers.

The Elks Americanism Essay Contest has the essay due date of December 15th. On the 17th, is our Christmas party.

May the spirit of the Holiday season fill you with Love and Charity and may all your loved ones be safe.

ER John Piddock



To my Kinderhook Elks Family,

My wish for all is that health and happiness are the most important things in your lives. We are never constant, never really the same person every day of our lives. We change with every experience we have, every person we encounter. We learn about not only ourselves but about others. We have all changed over the years. I have a very large family now, my own, my Elks family, my work family, ok not the people I work with but the people on my route. We all know how I feel about some of my co-workers, they are a work in progress for me. I want to thank you all for that. My perspective has changed on many accounts, some for the better some for the worse. This is where it gets interesting.

This was the first paragraph of my letter this morning. It was a negative Nancy Day. A day where instead of taking the high road or looking at things positively it was all negative. I went to church this morning, I was in need of a perspective change and that is exactly what I got.

I asked the minister if I could steal his words and with great delight he said "Of Course". I have been involved with Stegmann for a few years now. Not as many as others but more than some. This year I found myself criticizing people, finding fault with others because of what I thought was their abuse of the program. It made me so angry, so very annoyed, so ready to walk away and let someone else deal with my headaches. As I sat in church today I listened, truly listened. Who am I to judge, or criticize? Is that what God wants from me? To be the darkness that steals the light from not only the program but from my soul?

What truly hit home was the when the minister told me that my conduct and integrity should make others jealous, that I should be positive and encouraging, I should be building people up instead of tearing them or myself down. I shouldn't wait for someone else to fix me or the problem but I should instead ask others to help me. A team, of family and friends that work together not only for the community but for each of us individually. That is what I am asking of you, I am stumbling and I find myself being pulled more and more to the Negative Nancy Days. The Stegmann program isn't the only thing that suffers, our relationship, both inside and outside of the Lodge are effected.

I have never said I can do this alone, I have never thought of any project that I became involved in as, "my" "mine" or "I". I need your help and so does our Lodge and our community. We have become sloppy in how we conduct our lives and our relationships. Things we have failed to do, causing our relationship to go sour, our lack of effort tears us apart, the pain and hurt that we inflict, not only to our families and friends but to the community that we are here to serve. There is never the right moment, but there is that moment when we have to stand up and say now is the time, this moment is the time we change, not only for ourselves but for everyone.

As the end of the year quickly approaches, can you help me and others see the good that is still there? The joy that you see when a child smiles, the love you feel when you know you have done something to change the horrible situation some are living with. Let's work to make more Positive Penelope Day and less Negative Nancy one.

Thank you for everything you do for not only the community we serve, but for myself and both the members and nonmembers that continue to work with us for the betterment of all.

Annie



## Marion Stegmann Fund

The Marion Stegmann Fund's mission is to deliver food and gifts to hundreds of needy families across northern Columbia County. Because of this program, my family and hundreds of others had presents under the tree and food in our bellies every Christmas.

Growing up, my family didn't have much. My father worked day and night on a farmer's salary to support a family of six. This often meant we wore hand-me-down clothing and bought the cheapest food in bulk to make it last. We never took a vacation, owned a reliable vehicle that wouldn't break down a few times a month, and never owned our own home.

Yet, by some miracle, unbeknownst to us, every Christmas, there would be gifts under the tree and more than enough delicious food for us to eat. No other feeling could compare to the excited delight as we woke up to find that Santa had come and didn't forget about us. Our best memories as a family were made during these times. The happiness, love, and overwhelming feeling of abundance were truly magical!

It wasn't until I became an adult that I learned it was because of The Marion Stegmann Fund that we were able to celebrate Christmas each year the way we did. As soon as the opportunity arose, I knew I wanted to pay it forward. That moment came in 2019 when I reached out to The Marion Stegmann Fund to help a family that had experienced a significant loss and had been struggling for some time. A loving father was left raising three boys alone after their mother passed away from cancer. I could see the hurt on his face, and I could feel his anxiety building as each day grew closer and closer to Christmas. The Marion Stegmann Fund was able to relieve his fears when the boys woke up to presents Christmas morning and ate plenty of food to keep their bellies full for days. Since then, I have volunteered as needed for the program.

In 2020 my employer graciously allowed all employees to select an organization that could make a monetary donation. It was a no-brainer that I chose the one that not only helped my family and so many others over the years but brought hope to those who needed it most.

Unfortunately, donations over time have decreased immensely, and the program finds itself uncomfortable. The once-booming charity established in the 1950s that has helped thousands of families over the years is now struggling to meet expectations. Donations, monetary or otherwise, are crucial to The Marion Stegmann Fund's survival. I hope the program can continue assisting families in need as it has for seventy years, but it takes a community's support.

Suppose you or someone you know would like to support an organization based on providing humanitarian services within our community. In that case, monetary donations in the form of a check to The Marion Stegmann Fund are accepted year-round and can be sent to:

The Marion Stegmann  
Fund c/o Kinderhook  
Elks #2530  
P.O. Box 514  
Kinderhook, NY 12106

Thank you in advance for your generosity, wishing you a wonderful holiday season!

Kami Mena



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Christopher P. Akers

## Up-Coming Bridge Closure for repair Kinderhook Truss Bridge (County Route 21) over Kinderhook Creek

Please be advised that the Kinderhook Truss Bridge carrying County Route 21 over the Kinderhook Creek at the entrance to the Village of Kinderhook, is temporally closed to all traffic (pedestrian & bicycles included) until the end of December 2022 for repairs to the truss members.

Also note that this may increase illegal left hand turns onto Route 9H in front of the Elks Lodge.

If you should have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact Raymond Jurkowski, Commissioner of Public Works, at 518-828-7011 or at [Raymond.jurkowski@columbiacountyny.com](mailto:Raymond.jurkowski@columbiacountyny.com)



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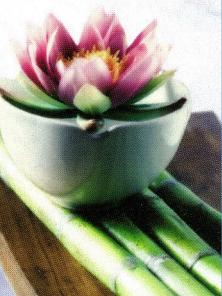
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## New Member Initiation in November

On Sunday November 5th, during the District Deputy's visitation, Kinderhook Elks initiated three new members into the order. The ritual was performed by Exalted Ruler John Piddock PSVP, Leading Knight Chris Bellingham, Loyal Knight Leo Buell PDD, Lecturing Knight John Utley PER, Esquire John Deane, Chaplain Chris Akers PDD, Inner Guard Jean Engel and Tiler Larry Knott



**Front L to R:** new members Tracey Walker and Darci Hover, State Vice President Bill Mellan, Exalted Ruler John Piddock PSVP. District Deputy Linda Rowse, new member Mark Huston, Inner Guard Jean Engel and Lodge Esquire John Deane.

**Rear L to R:** Jerry Shook PSP, Leo Buell PDD, Chris Akers PDD, John Utley PER, Trustee Thom McDermott, Board Chairman Ben Lasher, Tiler Larry Knott, Trustee John Sundwall, and Leading Knight Chris Bellingham.

GRAND LODGE  
FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

WILLIAM J. LINDSEY  
*Chairman*

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Spokane, WA 99208  
H (509) 443-4817  
C (509) 770-1294  
[bim@lindsevelk.com](mailto:bim@lindsevelk.com)

## 2022-2023 GRAND LODGE AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

***Challenging young, inquisitive minds to explore American Values!***

# “What is your American Dream?”

***New features in this year's contest are:***

Four separate divisions for 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th grade students.

Awards for Each Grade Level — ✓ \$1,000 for 1st; ✓ \$500 for 2nd; ✓ \$250 for 3rd.

I am pleased to announce that the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee has selected the theme, ***“What is your American Dream?”*** for the 2022-2023 Grand Lodge Americanism Essay Contest. The contest starts with the Local Lodges, progresses through District and State levels, and ends with the naming of our National Winners at the Grand Lodge Session in Minneapolis, MN in July 2023. This contest gives students in four separate grade levels, grades 5-8, the opportunity to thoughtfully, evaluate and express their views on the selected annual theme.

Nationally, first-place, second-place and third-place authors in each division will receive monetary awards of \$1,000, \$500, and \$250 respectfully. Many Lodges, Districts and State Associations also provide various forms of recognition to their respective winners, and the Fraternal Committee appreciates and encourages their extraordinary efforts in support of the contest.

Contest materials including the “annual contest theme” are published on-line on May 1. Lodges are encouraged to communicate with school officials in a timely fashion to facilitate annual curriculum planning. Contest materials and a fillable Certificate of Participation for Lodge completion are located at: <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm>.

This contest is vitally important to Elks as it promotes Americanism in our local communities. It encourages 10-13 year old students to thoughtfully consider American values and appreciate the blessings and responsibilities of citizenship.

The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee is committed to assisting you in promoting Americanism. Please let us know what we can do to be more helpful!

William J. Lindsey, *Chairman*



## Getting Ready for the Holidays Wreath Event

What a way to kick off the Holidays! On 11/20, we held our 1<sup>st</sup> create your own wreath class. The lodge filled up with smells of fresh cut balsam fir and pine that is hard to resist.



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**Kinderhook Elks**

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## *night*

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**Obomsawin** | **Friday, December 16th**

**2750 State Rte 9H, Kinderhook, NY**

Members and their guests  
Visiting Elks and their guests

Photo by: Heather M. Wall

# ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION LEGACY AWARDS



ACADEMICS | CHARITY | SERVICE | INTEGRITY

## ELIGIBILITY

College-bound high school seniors who are the children or grandchildren of dues-paying Elks are welcome to apply. Visit [enf.elks.org/leg](http://enf.elks.org/leg) for full eligibility details.

## IMPORTANT DATES

APPLICATION OPENS:

September 1, 2022

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

February 6, 2023

## AWARDS & APPLICATION

(350) \$4,000 Legacy Awards scholarships each year

Visit [enf.elks.org/leg](http://enf.elks.org/leg) to apply.



ENF scholarships are more than just monetary awards—they help strengthen the next generation's ties to the Elks. To help foster that relationship, the ENF requires scholars to serve with an Elks Lodge throughout college as a condition of receiving the full award.

The Elks National Foundation awards **\$1.4 million** in college scholarships worth **\$4,000** each to a total of **350** children and grandchildren of Elks members through its Legacy Awards contest. Visit [enf.elks.org/leg](http://enf.elks.org/leg) for complete details.

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# Kinderhook Elks

PLEASE JOIN US

## Drive Thru Community Baby Shower

The Kinderhook Elks Lodge will host a Community Baby Shower for residents of Northern Columbia County. Kinderhook, Styvesant, etc. for those expecting or who recently became a mother.

Raffle tickets at no charge, prizes include a car seat, or baby monitor.

Come pick up a bag of gifts for your new born.



January 14th  
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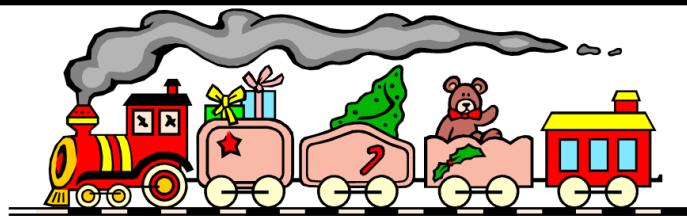
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# Dave's Wings & Dogs



Sundays  
4pm - 6:30pm

For take out, please call Dave @  
518.669.0155



Please join the Kinderhook Elks Lodge #2530 in an effort to bring a smile to the faces of children at Christmas.

The Lodge will again be assisting the Marine Corps with their Toys for Tots campaign  
By collecting NEW BOXED toys for children ages infant – 16 years.

There will be a collection box in the lounge.  
PICK UP DATE IS DECEMBER 15, 2022  
Contact Buster Esposita at 518-505-4925 if any questions.

Thanks in advance for your generosity to this worthy cause.



On Veterans Day the Kinderhook Elks veterans committee along with The High and Mighty Therapeutic Riding Center brought the miniature horses to The Grand Barnwell Rehabilitation and Nursing center for therapeutic therapy. The gentleman in the red hat and the American flag behind him is Sam Gamello a 100 year old veteran.



The Veterans food pantry at the Joseph P. Dwyer room at 388 Fairview Ave. Hudson, NY, is open. Veterans who need help can come to the new pantry for supplies. They are open Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:00a - 12:00p.

### **Widows Support Group**

Any widow who's spouse was a veteran can join the Joseph P. Dwyer widows connection. It's held every second Thursday of the month at 5:30pm at 389 Fairview Ave. Hudson, NY Suite 7.

Food and refreshments are served.

Please come and join the group and share your thoughts and stories.



Its Deer Season again, We are collecting Deer Hides for the Veterans

Location Drop Offs - Kinderhook Elks Lodge 2750 NY 9H, Kinderhook, NY & Ghent Sportsman's Association, 1128 County Rd. 9, Ghent NY

Follow the Red Signs to the labelled barrels to drop, we will be collecting hides up to mid January 2023



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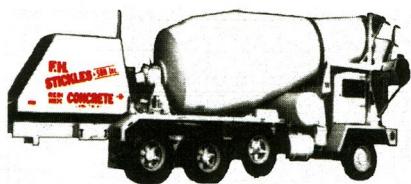
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TODD STICKLES

The St. Peter's Hospital College of Nursing would like to thank everyone who donated to the food drive, including Hewitt's Garden Center, Hudson Police Benevolent Association, Hudson Police Department, Bethlehem Police Department, NY Women in Law Enforcement, and Kinderhook Elks Lodge.



### The Veterans committee

November saw success in our endeavor to bring MORE to our Veterans by collaborating in a dinner and food drive to serve our Veterans. We did just that!!

In a dinner held at our lodge we served over 120 veterans and family members a roast beef dinner with the help of many of our members. That evening we saw a line out the door, we had to open and seat in our bar area to accommodate all that came out. This dinner was possible from funding and support from the Columbia county Veterans Service agency and its executive officer Gary Flaherty.

The St. Peter's Nursing School reached out for assistance in a food drive for the Veterans Food pantry at the Stratton VA in Albany and we delivered as only the 2530 can! With 75 lbs of food and \$250 in donations to serve those residents receiving care and needing assistance to our community members that frequent that location!

A huge 'Thank you' to all members that made it possible to show our heroes that their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten and that they are never alone amongst an organization that strives to stand next to them throughout successful and challenges.

On Wednesday evening, November 9th our lodge held a Veterans Dinner. A crew, led by PER Joe Laviano, prepared and served 125 Roast Beef Dinners to veterans, their spouses and their widows. It was so well attended that more seating had to be setup in the bar area. Meals were paid for by Gary Flaherty of the Veterans Service Agency in Hudson and the cake was donated by Hannaford.

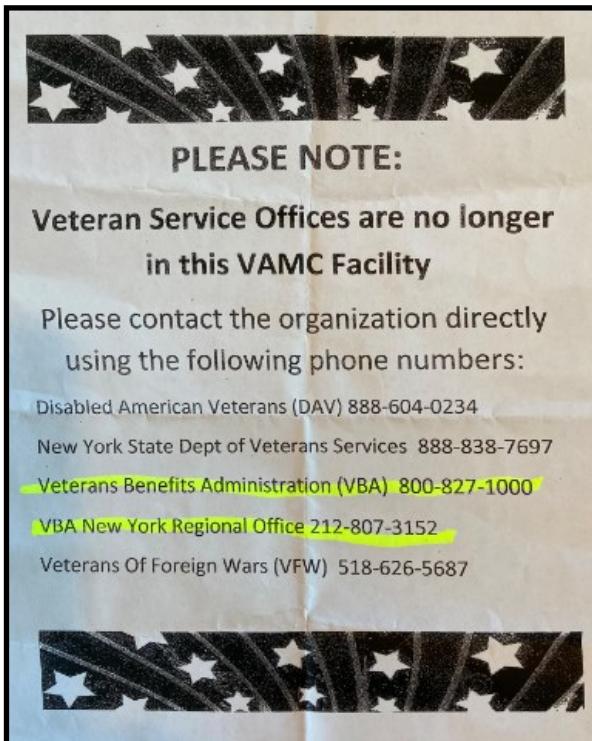


A monetary donation was made to the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Food Bank by Tom Miglio from the Kinderhook Elks Lodge Veterans Committee and Kate Timmis from the Kinderhook Elks Lodge Advertising Committee.

**L to R:** Stephanie Gardinier, Widows Food Pantry, Tom Miglio Veterans chair, Bootie Fenoff, Widows Food Pantry, Gary Flaherty Army Command Sergeant Major (retired) director of Veterans Services/Dwyer program, Patsy Leader, Widows Food Pantry and Kate Timmis Kinderhook Elks lodge Advertising Chair.



## The Albany Stratton VA



# Kinderhook Elks Lodge Bowling League



Thursday's  
Starting in February  
6pm - 8pm

East Greenbush Bowling Ctr  
570 Columbia Turnpike

We need 8 people to start a league. If interested,  
RSVP to: Tammy or Thom McDermott  
518-704-1866

\$20 pp or \$120pp in full for 6 weeks. Includes 2  
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## Kinderhook Elks Christmas Party

December 17, 2022 - 6pm

Open to members and their guest.  
Must sign up in the lounge  
no later than December 13th.

Bring a wrapped gift  
under \$10.00 in value.



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# Kinderhook Elks

**Dinner & Events Open To  
Members & Guests**

**Sunday Breakfasts** - Dining room seating w/ menu options, 8a - 11a

**Sundays** - Dave's Dogs & Wings 4p - 6:30p, Place your orders w/ Dave at 518.669.0155

**Fridays** - Queen of Hearts at 7pm. Purchase Tickets in the Lounge or call Tammy at 518.704.1866

**Reservations Required for Friday Dinners** - Place your order w/ Anne at 518.758.2196

## **DEC**

2nd - Small Steak and FF, \$12.00 - along with Bar Menu 5p-7p

4th - Ritual of Memorial Services Ceremony @3pm, Light Refreshments Provided

9th - Fish Fry, Served w/Cole Slaw, FF or Onion Rings 5p - 7p \$11.00

10th - Marion Stegmann Delivery -Details to come

11th - Breakfast with Santa 8a-11a

16th - Karaoke Night 7p-10p Bar Menu Available

16th - Taco Night - 3 Hard or Soft Shells, choice of Beef or Chicken 5p-7p \$10.00

17th - Christmas Party 6p, Lasagna, Salad, Rolls & Dessert-Bring Wrapped Gift Under \$10.00 value,  
Sign up in Lounge by the 13th.

18th - Breakfast with Santa 8a-11a

23rd - No Dinner

25th - Christmas



## **JAN 2023**

13th - Fish Fry, Served w/Cole Slaw, FF or Onion Rings 5p - 7p \$11.00

14th - Drive Through Baby Shower 10a - 12p



**UPCOMING LODGE MEETINGS, PLEASE JOIN US.**

**Member Meetings - December 12th at 7:30pm**

**Board of Directors Meeting - December 19th at 7:30pm**



## 2022-2023

### Phone Numbers

Lodge: 518 758 2530  
Office: 518 758 2538  
Emergency: 518 758 0344  
Lodge Fax: 518 758 1771

### Mailing Address

Kinderhook Elks Lodge #2530  
P O Box 514  
2530 State Route 9H  
Kinderhook, NY 12106

### **Officers**

Exalted Ruler: John Piddock PSVP 758-2842  
Leading Knight: Chris Bellingham 610-1244  
Loyal Knight:  
Lecturing Knight: Steve Everett 610-8542  
Esquire: John Deane 758-7051  
Chaplain: Sharon Deck 784-3482  
Inner Guard: Jeannie Engel 653-3906  
Tiler: Larry Knott 758-7618  
Treasurer: Joe Laviano, PER 758-1741  
Secretary: Jerry Shook, PSP 567-4443  
Organist: John Deane 758-7051

### **Trustees**

Trustee: Ben Lasher (Chair) 784-2032  
Trustee: John Sundwall Jr. 784-3600  
Trustee: Robin Howes 392-3578  
Trustee: Thom McDermott 776-9000  
Trustee: Chris Akers PDD 858-7134

### **House Committee**

Dave Travis (Chair) 794-8427  
Sharon Deck 784-3482  
Chuck Cotsonas PER 821-2367  
John Piddock PSVP 758-2842  
Tammy McDermott 704-1866

Practice the virtues of Charity, Justice and  
Brotherly Love, and with Fidelity to perform  
the duties of the office .



### **Newsletter of the Kinderhook Elks Lodge #2530**

**Newsletter Articles:** Must be submitted by the **25th** of each month for the next edition-Email us at [Editor@Kinderhookelks.org](mailto:Editor@Kinderhookelks.org)

**Newsletter Committee:** Kate Timmis, Jean Engel, Gordie Engel, Bill Cooper and Chris Bellingham, John Piddock

**Advertising/Circulation:** Jerry Shook

**Website:** [www.Kinderhookelks.org](http://www.Kinderhookelks.org)

**Facebook:** Find us at ["Kinderhook Elks Lodge #2530"](#)