



# THE LEGEND

## Newsletter of the Kinderhook Elks

March 2023



### Exalted Ruler's Message

Dear Fellow Members of Kinderhook Elks Lodge,

Where has the year gone? In thirty odd days, this Elk year will be over. I'd like to thank each and every one of you for the time and effort you've given to the lodge this year, as well as your support to our officers. We have much to be proud of as a lodge.

We started the year with my PSVP Homecoming dinner. We had beautiful ceremonies for Flag Day, Elks' Memorial Day, Ritual at District Deputy Visitation, and PER Initiation. We tried new things such as sponsoring dinners for our schools' state sports champions in basketball and softball, karaoke, ballroom dancing and monthly initiations.

Meanwhile, we continued to provide our 'traditional' events that mean so much to our community. These include, but are not limited to, the Easter Bunny at the Village Square, Veteran's Day Dinner, PERs hosting one of the Community Dinners at St. Luke's, Community Baby Showers, Red Cross Blood Drives, Special Needs Prom, sponsoring the Veteran's Room at the Albany Airport, and Marion Stegmann Fund. Representation of the lodge at District and State events was inspiring. Our attendance at District events was always at or near the top and I was surprised at the number of our members that attended a portion of the NYSEA Fall Conference held in Albany.

Unfortunately, during the year we've had members who have passed on. The most recent was Dave 'Oilcan' Riffley. To our absent members!

As to activities this past month, it was quite a busy time. Our second Community Baby Shower was on the 11th. On the 12th, the lodge had a Super Bowl Party. On Sunday, Feb 19th, the PERs held an initiation for a new member. Thanks to the PERs for an excellent job. Then on the 22nd was our annual blood drive. Thanks to Steve Everett for coordinating this.

On February 27th, elections for the 2023-24 officers were held. However, at the time of writing this, the elections had not been held. We are blessed to have a full slate of officers on the ballot. The slate is:

Exalted Ruler – Anne Leiser, PER  
Esteemed Leading Knight – Darci Hover  
Esteemed Loyal Knight – Terri Brew  
Esteemed Lecturing Knight – Kelly McGiffert  
Secretary – Jerry Shook, PSP  
Treasurer – Joseph Laviano, PER  
Trustee – John Sundwall



Continued on page 2



For up coming events in March and April, we have:

- The PERs will be holding a meeting for planning the year ahead, date is TBD.
- Community Baby Shower on Saturday, March 11th.
- St. Patrick's Day party on the Saturday March 18th.
- Elks NY State President, Cameron Ricci, will be visiting the North Hudson district on the weekend of March 17-19. He is expected to arrive at our Lodge during the evening of Saturday, March 18th.
- Special Needs Prom is Saturday, March 25th.
- Officer Installation is on the 26th at 4pm. This will be followed by dinner and awards ceremony. Dinner will be roast pork, potato and vegetable.
- Membership Committee is holding a meeting on March 28th at 6:30pm
- Easter Bunny will be visiting the Village of Kinderhook on Saturday, April 8th.
- District Deputy Clinic is on Saturday, April 15th at Rensselaer Lodge; breakfast at 9am.
- Saturday, April 22nd is VERY busy:
  - Poughkeepsie Lodge is visiting us from 12:30 to 2:15pm
  - SVP Bill Mellan and PDD Deb Miner's Homecoming is at the Hudson Lodge from 4 to 7pm. Cost is \$50 per ticket. Please see me if interested in a dinner booking at the lodge for 5pm.

We also have a couple of reminders:

- For those few members that have not been able to pay their dues for the 2022-23 year, please attend to this ASAP.
- Dues for 2023-24 are due by March 31st.

Finally, this is your lodge. If you have any suggestions or thoughts pertaining to it, please let an officer, a trustee or myself know of them.

Fraternally,  
ER John Piddock



**"The last thing I remember is being thrown into the dryer."**



The Elk Says – Always keep your words soft and sweet just in case you have to eat them.

## Annie's Message

To my Kinderhook Elks Family,

Don't know about you but it's been a busy busy month. We live in a time where everything is rush, rush, rush, no time to truly enjoy. This is a fast-paced world in which we come and go like fireflies. Technology is great, at times, but the human connection is so much more. A friend of mine has to bury her son. Sure a text to say I'm thinking of you, or a card in the mail are great, but taking the time to stop in to see her, to say hey, I'm here, I love you, you are not alone, give a real heartfelt hug and leave means so much more. It means something not only to them but to you.

WE, myself included, have come to rely on technology. We send out emails to members about the passing of a member, an event, an update about what's happening at the Lodge or where we need help, but emails don't reach all our members. We have to try and remember many members don't carry their phone with them like a lifeline. They don't have email, they don't have Facebook or instant messenger. I would like us to set up a phone tree, yup very "old School", but it works and it's important. Inform one person and they are responsible for letting 4 others know what's going on. It was so heartbreakingly to hear that some members didn't know about the time of the service for our departed member. They weren't asked to help, they missed joining us in saying goodbye to a friend and member they have known for decades. I do have to say it was so heartwarming to see so many members at the services on Saturday a very proud moment to say "I'm an Elk"

So much change is coming. The new Lodge year has a full slate of officers. Isn't that GREAT???? Step one complete. Now it's up to all of us to move the Lodge forward. Meetings are such a good way to find out information. The Lodge needs you, your ideas, your help, and your support. We are not asking nor are we implying that we want you at the Lodge for every event or every function. Burnout is a real thing!! Members do need to get involved to make that connection with other members to be able to feel like part of something greater; to spread the word on what we do and who we are; to feel comfortable to bring their thoughts and ideas forward to make them happen. There are no bad ideas, bring them up, let's get together, work out a plan and make it happen.

Easter is coming fast, I'm sure we will be having breakfast with the Easter Bunny and we also have the Bunny in the Kinderhook square. Want to help? Let Larry know – this is his baby. Come and see the smiles on the kids faces. Take that 10 minutes to stop and see the wonder and excitement. Car show is fast approaching, anyone is welcome to attend. The Special Needs event is this month; the State President is coming to visit; St Patty's Day dinner; installation of officers; Friday night meals and Sunday breakfasts. Lots of opportunities to step up and help at an event or two. Our Lodge family is expanding with every new member, let's welcome them, get them involved, listen and learn to them and from them. A simple perspective change is amazing.

One last thing and I'll stop. I have been attending events at other Lodges, initiations and such. Please lets make everyone feel welcome. Step out of your comfort zone and introduce yourself. Welcome them to the Lodge. New people are coming to breakfast. They don't know it's seat yourself or how things work. As they come through the door say good morning, or welcome to the Lodge have a seat wherever you like, keep the coffee hot and the cups filled. First impressions only happen once.

Thank you for everything you do for the Lodge and the community we serve.

Anne PER



## Initiation of New Member

On Sunday afternoon, February 19<sup>th</sup>, the Past Exalted Rulers Association performed the Initiation Ritual, bringing one new member into our order.

The ritual was performed by:

Exalted Ruler John Piddock, PSVP  
Leading Knight Frank Masten, PER  
Loyal Knight Buster Esposita, PDD  
Lecturing Knight John Utley, PER  
Esquire Joel Dyslin, PER  
Chaplain Chris Akers, PDD  
Inner Guard Leo Buell, PDD  
Tiler Larry Knott  
Lodge Secretary Jerry Shook, PSP



**Front L to R:** PER Joel Dyslin, *new member Cristina Shord*, PSVP John Piddock, PER Frank Masten, PDD Buster Esposita, PDD Leo Buell

**Rear L to R:** PSP Jerry Shook, Chaplain Sharon Deck, Tiler Larry Knott, PDD Chris Akers, Trustee Thom McDermott, PER John Utley, Board Chairman Ben Lasher, Lecturing Knight Steve Everett, Trustee John Sundwall, Leading Knight Chris Bellingham, Esquire John Deane, Inner Guard Jean Engel.

## Installation of Officers

On March 26<sup>th</sup> the following officers will be installed for the 2023-2024 year.

Exalted Ruler – Annie Leiser  
Leading Knight – Darci Hover  
Loyal Knight – Terri Brew  
Lecturing Knight – Kelly McGiffert  
Secretary – Jerry Shook  
Treasurer – Joe Laviano

A dinner and awards ceremony will follow.

**A sign up sheet for the dinner is on the pool table in the lounge.**



## Honor a Vet Program

Darci Hover and Gordie Engel will be selling 3' by 5' flags for \$40 to those who wish to sponsor a veteran for the Honor a Vet Ceremony that will be held on Memorial Day. The flags come with rebar and a pole. The flags that were purchased will be displayed on the Elks lawn prior to the ceremony. There will be name tags on the flags and sponsors may take their flags after the ceremony.





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# Veterans



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## Widows Support Group

Any widow whose spouse was a veteran can join the Joseph P. Dwyer widows connection. It's held at 10:00 am on the second Thursday of every month at:

Suite 7  
389 Fairview Ave.  
Hudson, NY

Food and refreshments are served.  
Please come and join the group and share your thoughts and stories.

## Veterans Food Pantry

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.

## Valentine's cards

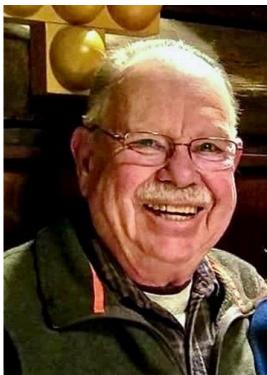
On behalf of the Veterans Committee, Darci Hover sent chocolate and Valentine's cards to the veterans in The Grand, Pine Haven and The Ghent Rehabilitation homes.



## The Albany Stratton VA

Please note that Veteran Service offices are no longer in the VAMC facility. Please contact the organization directly using the following phone numbers

Disabled American Veterans 888-604-0234  
NY State Dept. of Veterans Services 888-838-7697  
Veterans Benefits Administration 800-827-1000  
VBA New York Regional Office 212-807-3152  
Veterans of Foreign Wars 518-626-5687



## **In memory of Dave (Oilcan) Riffley**

David Leroy Riffley, 80, of Stockport, died on February 19 with loving family members at his side. Born in Gouverneur on January 23, 1943, David was the elder son of Robert Leroy and Shirley Tooker Riffley. Following his graduation in 1961 from Columbia High School in East Greenbush, David enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard and was stationed in Cape May, N.J., where he served on the Miah Maull Shoal Light and aboard the USCGC Cape Kiwanda (WPB 95329). He was honorably discharged in 1966 with a rank of Engineman Petty Officer Third Class.

David had a long career with Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation and worked as a Class C "Hot Stick" lineman, retiring as a foreman in 1994 with 28 years of service. In his retirement years, David and his wife Debbie took pleasure in traveling around the country, including on a number of vacation cruises and trips to Alaska and Hawaii.

In 2019, he had the opportunity to go on a Patriot Flight for veterans to Washington, D.C., an experience he found to be especially moving and meaningful.

David held memberships in Kinderhook Elks Lodge 2530, the American Legion, and Glencadia Rod and Gun Club and was a social member of Stuyvesant Falls Memorial VFW Post 9593 and the Stuyvesant Falls Fire Department.

A talented mechanic, David enjoyed restoring vintage machinery and earned the nickname "Oil Can" among his friends. He tackled everything from antique steam engines and tractors to a 1923 Model T, but he was most proud of the 1946 Jeep in which he often participated at local parades and ceremonial events.

In addition to his many hobbies, David volunteered for a number of organizations, including as a driver for Disabled American Veterans and doing restoration work on the USS Slater Destroyer Escort moored in Albany.

David will be greatly missed by his friends and family. He is survived by his wife of 18 years, Debra Kirker Riffley; his daughter, Carolyn Riffley; stepdaughters, Julia Provenzano and Laura Slobodiak; grandchildren, Robert Bigness, Jr., Benjamin Barie, and Sarah Barie; and great-granddaughter, Anna Bigness. David is also survived by his sister, Shawna Lambert, and brother, Peter (Barbara) Riffley, as well as by his first wife, Joyce Baker Toussaint. He was predeceased by his parents and a stepson, Robert Jennings.

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## In House Baby Shower

The baby shower sponsored by the Elks and hosted by LeeAnn Alessi, Nina Kahn and Gail Smith on February 11<sup>th</sup> benefited 5 expectant mothers. The next shower will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup>. See the poster below for further details.



## 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.

March 11th  
11 am  
R.S.V.P to LeeAnn at  
518-588-9425



## Kinderhook Elks On-Line

Have you tried the search features on our website? The most obvious one is the Search page.

Home News Calendar Gallery Our Programs Contact Us Links **Search** Our Sponsors

You can type in a keyword or phrase, e.g., “special needs”, and the website will list all the items that contain it. Other examples are “veterans” or a member’s name. There are 38 results for veterans!

Another search tool is the tags that accompany most items. See the “Our Programs” page.

Home News Calendar Gallery **Our Programs** Contact Us Links Search Our Sponsors

**Hoop Shoot Marion Stegmann** **Veterans** **Deer Hide** **Special Needs** **Boy Scouts** **Americanism** **DARE**  
**PERs Association**

The tags are the highlighted words or phrases under the menu, e.g., Hoop Shoot, Marion Stegmann, etc. If you click on a tag, the website will return a list of items with the same tag. This may be useful if you are reading an article and you want to see related items.

Any questions or comments, please write to [webadmin@kinderhookelks.org](mailto:webadmin@kinderhookelks.org).



[www.kinderhookelks.org](http://www.kinderhookelks.org)

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### Membership meeting

The membership meeting was held February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Those attending were membership chair Terri Brew, Christina and Jim Shord, Annie Leiser, Kelly McGiffert, Leslie Crockle, Gordie and Jean Engel, Nina Kahn, Chris Bellingham and John Piddock.

The purpose of the committee is to foster current members and recruit new members. The committee will meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. All are welcome to attend and all ideas and suggestions will be considered.

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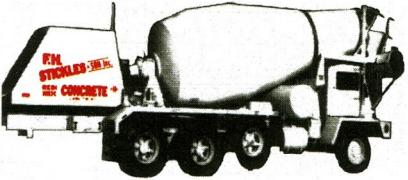
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## **Book Club**

Our book club meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup> consisted of a discussion on The Clockmaker's Daughter. It was a lively book with a lot of characters depicting different times and places. Overall, the group was 50/50 if it was a great read. The complexity made it somewhat difficult to follow but the story line was intriguing and surprising. We had some really great discussion.

Our next book is Love & Other Words by Christina Lauren and our next meeting is March 11th in the bar area. We decided that we really like the atmosphere and will continue our meetings in this location.

## **Super Bowl**

The Super Bowl party February 12 was a great success and thanks to all who attended. There was plenty of good food and the game was a close one.

Dave Travis, House Chair, wishes to thank Gary Hammond, Joe Scali, John Gallo, Todd Sickles, Pete Mullins, Ryan Groat, Parker Hammond, Andy Millar, Thom McDermott and Billy Rich for their food prep, serving and cleanup.

Also thanks to ticket sellers Ann Leiser and Mike, Sharon Deck, Larry Knott, and bartenders Gordie and Jean Engel.

## **Car show Committee**

The car show committee met on Thursday February 21. Those attending were Anne Leiser, Robin Howes, Gene Gaylord, Eric Meuchner, Bill Bogarski, Matt Hauser and Nina Kahn. Unable to attend were LeeAnn Alessi, Virginia Hunt, Rob Warner, Lisa and Julian Caproni.

The car show will be held July 22,2023 at the Chatham Fair Grounds. A few more meetings will be held to firm up the final details.

## **Blood Drive**

Steve Everett reported there were 19 blood donors at the blood drive on Wednesday February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Future blood drives will be held on May 10<sup>th</sup>, July 5<sup>th</sup>, and September 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **Community Dinner - Valentine Day at St. Luke's**

There were about 80 people who attended the Valentine's Day dinner at St. Luke's on February 14th. Roasted pork loin, mashed potatoes, corn, and gravy were served by Leo Buell, Ben Lasher and David Leiser. Thanks to all who helped prepare, serve, and clean up.



# Calendar

<b>Friday Evening</b>	Bar Menu 5pm – 7pm. Reservations required call Anne at 518-758-2196 Queen of Hearts at 7pm. Purchase tickets in the lounge or call Tammy at 518-704-1866
<b>Sunday Breakfast</b>	Dining room seating with menu options. 8am – 11am.
<b>Sunday Afternoon</b>	Dave's Dogs and Wings. 4PM – 6:30pm. Place your orders with Dave at 518-669-0155
<b>Lodge meetings</b>	Please join us! Members: Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> and 27th at 7:30pm Board of Directors: Monday 20th at 7:30pm

## March Menus – served 5pm to 7pm

- 3rd Fish platter with shrimp and clam strips - \$14. Bar menu available
- 10<sup>th</sup> Fish fry, served with coleslaw, French fries or onion rings - \$11. Bar Menu
- 17<sup>th</sup> Stuffed shells -\$15 or Fish fry with coleslaw, French Fries or onion rings - \$11
- 24<sup>th</sup> Meatball Sub or tuna boat - \$10
- 31<sup>st</sup> Fish fry, served with coleslaw, French fries or onion rings - \$11

## March Events

- 11<sup>th</sup> Book Club meeting - 10am
- 11<sup>th</sup> Baby Shower – 11am to 1pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Dinner \$18 - 5pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> State Vice President visit
- 25<sup>th</sup> Special Needs Prom – 5pm to 9pm
- 26<sup>th</sup> Installation of Officers and Pork, potatoes, salad and vegetables
- 28<sup>th</sup> Membership Committee meets 6:30pm



# Lodge Contacts

## 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  
PO Box 514  
2750 State Route 9H  
Kinderhook, NY 12106

## Officers

Exalted Ruler:	John Piddock PSVP	758-2842
Leading Knight:	Chris Bellingham	610-1244
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## Newsletter

Articles must be submitted by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month for the next edition.

Send articles to [editor@kinderhookelks.org](mailto:editor@kinderhookelks.org)

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