



# THE LEGEND

## Newsletter of the Kinderhook Elks

December 2024



### Exalted Ruler's Message

Holiday greetings to my Kinderhook Elks Family, friends, and members,

Thanksgiving is over! I'd say where did the year go? But I know where it went. It has been a busy year for me, not necessarily at the Lodge, but definitely at work and with family. I haven't been around much because of the shortness of workers at the PO. Long days have limited my availability. I am working on stepping away from many of the things I do at the Lodge... yup you're all saying she keeps saying that but yet she doesn't change. There are four months left before the end of the Lodge year and as soon as I can I will make sure the sheet is up to either nominate yourself or someone else for a position at the Lodge. After December I am resigning from the third Sunday breakfast so if there is a member out there that would like to join a crew, please advise.

The deer hide program is in full swing!! Please pass the word, we need your hides!! This is a two fold benefit or maybe even a trifecta.... We collect the hides and sell them to the tannery, that money goes into the Vets Fund, which we in turn spend on the Vets. The hides are made into kits for Veterans to make gloves, slippers, etc. This gives them, in my opinion, something to do to continue to benefit themselves, the community, and others. At the moment it is being worked by four people, Al Lamarre, John Sundwall, myself and my brother David. Someone will need to step up for next year to help keep this program working and doing well.

April is the new Lodge year, Leslie Flynn and I are working together to make the new application for sponsorship out there in time to have the new placemats, the ads on the internet and sponsorship for the car show all in one form. This will also need a new person to run next year, maybe even two or three. The money that we raise helps us do more events with the Vets, and allows us to donate to organizations in the community. Last year we donated money to HAWS, healing a woman's soul, which helps women and children start a new life, when they are in an abusive relationship. We also made a nice donation to Breast Cancer research on behalf of all the women that help out at the Lodge. But it doesn't just help women. Did you know men can get breast cancer too?! Who knew?...



Continued on page 2

Clynk is another program that helps the Vets account. ALL the money raised goes into the Vets account, if anyone is interested in doing this program please contact me and I will give you all the information that you will need to get the bags, the tags, and label them and keep them in supply for members and the public to fill and add to the program.

Marion Stegmann is this month!!! The committee is doing a great job as always. We are hoping that Nina will be back soon and able to help Paige take this program over and take it to new heights. There are so many involved in this program for the betterment of the community. I still love hearing the stories about the happy faces, the excitement of families knowing that people care. Bringing food, toys, a smiling face, sometimes the smallest gesture brings the greatest reward.

Wednesday meals.... There aren't enough crews to keep this program going, so I am sorry to say this will be sporadic. Friday's are still a go, so please continue to support the Lodge and the community we are here to serve.

Rick Stegmann and his cohort Dave Mooney are cooking up the "THREE BUCK CHUCK" night! From the rumors the food is amazing, so on the Saturday that this event happens, stop by, enjoy friends and food. They have a drive for the Lodge and we need to feed that, this is how the Lodge moves forward. Stop by and support their efforts. It's a win win situation.

Nothing else to say!! Surprised aren't you? I can babble on and on! Seriously, the Lodge and the community we serve needs YOU!! Do what you can when you can!

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season, and that you are surrounded by family, friends and loved ones!!

Thank you for everything you do, the friendships you continue to grow and everything you do for not only the Lodge but the community. One act of kindness paid forward helps change the world. Be a part of that change!!!

Fraternally,  
Anne Marie Leiser  
ER/PER

## Esteemed Leading Knight's Message

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts to all our members, family, and friends, for your unwavering support that keeps the Lodge moving forward!

This was my first year participating in visitations to other lodges, and to my surprise, I truly enjoyed it. During the first visitation, you learn the ropes and discover what happens. By the second, you begin to feel comfortable and find your groove, and by the third, it feels like family—it becomes a cherished habit and routine. Attending a visitation is not only fun but also enlightening. Everyone offers their support, allowing you to build friendships and share inspiring ideas. Next year, you should go to one, I encourage you to take that leap and give it a try!

I hope that each of you had the opportunity to complete the survey I recently sent out. We eagerly look forward to hearing your thoughts. Please take the time to share your opinions. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Dart night is a blast! We've had as many as 14 players joining in on the fun. I definitely have my good and not-so-good nights, but that's all part of the game! Lately, the poor dartboard is getting a little worn from all the action. A huge thanks to Dave and Rick for giving us a sneak peek of 3-Buck Chuck – what a treat! We always welcome new players, so if you're free, join us at 6:30 PM on Thursdays. We'd love to see you there!

Watch for an email soon about the beginner's pool night on Tuesdays. It's going to be a lot of fun! If you're not receiving our emails, no worries! Just drop a line at [editor@kinderhookelks.org](mailto:editor@kinderhookelks.org), and someone will happily send you the instructions to sign up. We can't wait to see you there!

This year is flying by, and it's hard to believe we're already approaching Christmas. Has anyone started their holiday shopping yet? We haven't, and we should get on that soon. I genuinely wish you and your loved ones all the warmth and joy this time of year brings. May your Christmas be filled with love, and the new year bring you peace and happiness. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Remember, everyone, this is your Lodge. Use it, support it, and continue to promote it. See you soon at the Lodge!

Tammy McDermott  
Leading Knight

## Beware of Phony Charities for Veterans

The New York Post recently published an article written by John Stark warning of the many fake charities, supposedly raising funds for US Veterans. Many of these so-called charities allocate very little of the money they raise toward veteran's needs.

To avoid lining the pockets of scammers, please check with Charities For Vets, which focuses exclusively on non-profits that promise to help US military veterans. Their rating system consists of four tests. A failure in any one of them results in a Not Recommended rating.



<https://nypost.com/2024/11/10/opinion/stop-the-scamsters-who-rip-off-vets-with-fake-charities/>



<https://charitiesforvets.org/>



Leading Knight Rose Neckles made a donation to the Columbia County Youth Theater on behalf of the Kinderhook Elks Lodge. The youth theater offers enriching arts experiences for our county's young people, helping to foster creativity, confidence, and a sense of community. Together, we can continue to inspire creativity and nurture a love for the arts in Columbia County.



For those that never served on our military, this is the best way I could explain it.

For my non military friends out there, this may or may not help you understand those of us that served in the Military. We Are Veterans. We left home as teenagers for an unknown adventure. We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives. We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew. We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth. We found new friends and new family. We became brothers and sisters regardless of color, race or creed. We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times. We didn't get enough sleep. We smoked and drank too much. We picked up both good and bad habits. We worked hard and played harder. We didn't earn a great wage. We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events. We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again. We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all. We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others. Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't. Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't. Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare. We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical. We participated in time honored ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie. We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all. We have dealt with victory and tragedy. We have celebrated and mourned. We lost a few along the way. When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all. We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures. We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don't experience, and few will understand. We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches. We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat. Being a veteran is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away. It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift. People see a veteran and they thank them for their service. When we see each other, we give that little upwards head nod, or a slight smile, knowing that we have shared and experienced things that most people have not. So, from myself to the rest of the veterans out there, I commend and thank you for all that you have done and sacrificed for your country. Try to remember the good times and grow from the bad times. Share your stories. But most importantly, stand tall and proud, for you have earned the right to be called a Veteran

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**KINDERHOOK ELKS LODGE 2530**

# **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 15TH AND 22ND  
8:00AM - 11:00AM**



**2750 NY-9H, KINDERHOOK, NY 12106  
(518) 758-2530**



### Joseph Laviano Elk of the Decade

This elk and plaque was presented to Joe Laviano at the November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting for his over 30 years of dedicated service and endless contributions to The Kinderhook Elks Lodge #2530.

# Veteran Needs

## **Clothing \*ALL ITEMS NEED TO BE NEW**

Men's Sneakers (sizes 9-12)  
Sweatpants(sizes Medium and 2XLarge)  
Sweatshirts (sizes XLarge and 3XLarge)  
Men's Boxers and Briefs (Med/Large/ XL)  
Belts  
Chap Stick  
Boots (Winter) sz's 13-14

## **Food**

Snack items (cookies, chips, pretzels, gummies, etc.) in single serve packaging  
Ramen, Rice, Canned Fruit, Canned Chicken/Tuna & Canned Beans  
Cereal, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Pasta Sauce, Mac & Cheese, Oatmeal,  
Spaghetti/Macaroni Noodles

## **Toiletries**

Toothpaste, Shampoo, Conditioner, Nail Clippers  
Men's/Women's disposable razors(3 blades), thermal top/bottoms, shaving  
*ELECTRIC RAZOR* cream, Body Wash, Body Lotion

## **Small Denomination Gift Cards (\$15 -\$25)**

Price Chopper, Hannaford, Shop-rite, etc.  
**FOR EMERGENCY PURCHASES OF FOOD**

## **Checks Payable to:**

Albany Stratton VA Medical Center  
On the memo line, please add: Voluntary Services

# **Thank You for supporting our Veterans!**

**For additional information please contact:**

**Dom Dominguez, Service Chief, Center for Development  
& Civic Engagement (518) 626-5507**

# Veterans

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## **Veterans Committee**

John Sundwall Jr. 610-5630    Tammy McDermott 704-1866

## **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.

## **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

## **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 through Thursdays 9:30 to 1:30 except for Federal holidays.

## **Used Clothing Drop-off Shed**

Donate your gently-used, clean clothing, shoes, belts, blankets, drapes, purses, and bedding.

No rags, fabric scraps, pillows, or household goods. These items are expensive to dispose of.

Donations are tax deductible.

Recycle and help others in need. Please bag your items in closed bags to keep them clean and dry.

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## KINDERHOOK ELKS LODGE 2530

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## HELP US HELP OUR VETERANS

**HIDE  
DONATIONS  
518-758-2196**

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# Calendar

- Friday Evening** Menu 5pm – 7pm. Reservations required call Anne at 518-758-2196  
Queen of Hearts at 7pm. Purchase tickets in the lounge from Larry Knott or ask a bartender.
- Sunday Breakfast** Dining room seating with menu options. 8am – 11am.
- Lodge meetings** Please join us!  
Members: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm  
Board of Directors: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm

## December Menus – served Fridays from 5pm to 7pm

- 6<sup>th</sup> Philly Cheese Steak, french fries or onion rings - \$13 – Bar Menu available  
13<sup>th</sup> Fish Fry with coleslaw, french fries or onion rings - \$12 – Bar Menu available  
20<sup>th</sup> Smashburgers with french fries or onion rings - \$12  
27<sup>th</sup> Pepperoni subs with french fries or onion rings - \$14

## December Events

- 1<sup>st</sup> Memorial Service – 3pm  
7<sup>th</sup> Ugly sweater and cocktail party 6pm to 9pm  
14<sup>th</sup> Marian Stegmann Christmas delivery  
21<sup>st</sup> Lodge Christmas Party 5pm to 9pm

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## 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  
2750 Rt 9H  
Post Office Box 514  
Kinderhook, NY 12106

### Officers

Exalted Ruler:	Annie Leiser	758-2196
Leading Knight:	Tammy McDermott	704-1866
Loyal Knight:	Kelly McGiffert	545-0022
Lecturing Knight:	Rosemarie Neckles	845 902-8499
Esquire:	John Deane	758-7051
Chaplain:	Sharon Deck	784-3482
Inner Guard:	Jean 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

Ben Lasher (Chair)	784-2032
John Sundwall Jr.	610-5630
Thom McDermott	776-9000
John Piddock PDD	758-2842
Chris Akers PDD	858-7134

### House Committee

Sharon Deck (Chair)	784-3482
Chuck Cotsonas PER	821-2367
John Piddock PDD	758-2842
Larry Knott	758-7618
Gordie Engel	653-4157
Rick Stegmann	573-6751
Kelly McGiffert	545-0022

## Newsletter

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

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

(Graphics, plain text, or a word document is preferred - **No PDFs, please!**)

Committee: Jean Engel (Editor), Gordie Engel, Bill Cooper,  
Chris Bellingham, John Piddock

Advertising/Circulation: Jerry Shook

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

Facebook: Find us at "Kinderhook Elks Lodge #2530"

