



THE LEGEND

Newsletter of the Kinderhook Elks

February 2026



Exalted Ruler's Message

To the Kinderhook Elks Family,

Welcome, February! As we stand on the brink of a new fiscal year, we're presented with a beautiful opportunity to embrace fresh leadership, new ideas, and renewed energy within our Lodge. This season of renewal invites us to look ahead with hope, gratitude, and a sense of excitement for what's to come.

Speaking from the heart, serving in the chairs has been an incredible honor for me. It's been a journey filled with challenges, growth, and connections with fellow members that I will cherish forever. I genuinely hope that others will take a leap of faith and discover how rewarding this experience can be.

Each year, we hold elections for the following officer positions: Exalted Ruler, Leading Knight, Loyal Knight, Lecturing Knight, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Trustee (5-year term). The Exalted Ruler will appoint all other positions.

If you've ever wondered what it's like to guide our Lodge's decisions, support fellow members, or bring new ideas to life, now is the perfect time to explore that avenue. Leadership in our community is about more than titles; it's about heart, commitment, and the genuine desire to help our Lodge flourish. Each of you has valuable contributions to make.

There are two simple, welcoming ways to take part:

- 1. Sign-Up Sheet in the Lounge:** Feel free to add your name or the name of a fellow member you believe would shine in a particular role.
- 2. Nominations From the Floor:** During our February meetings, you can directly nominate individuals who you think would be wonderful in these positions.

Continued overleaf...

Your Newsletter Needs You!

The newsletter committee is looking for someone to edit the newsletter. If you have basic word-processing skills (MS Word or similar) and would like to manage the layout of submitted articles and images in the newsletter each month, please contact one of the newsletter committee members (see last page).

The hours are flexible and compensation is second to none! Work can be done from the comfort of your own home using LibreOffice, which is free, open-source software that runs on MS Windows, Mac OS and Linux. One-on-one training is available.



ER's message continued...

Important Dates to Remember:

- February 9th, Lodge meeting - nominations close
- February 23rd, Lodge meeting - voting on officers

Encourage one another, lift each other, and help shape the next chapter of our Lodge's story. If you have any questions or simply want to chat, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any of the current chairs. We are here for you and would love to engage with you further.

This is Your Lodge—let's support and celebrate it together. Whether you're volunteering, attending events, or sharing our news, you are making a difference in helping our Lodge thrive. Let's continue to show up for one another—with open hearts and helping hands.

With deep gratitude,

Exalted Ruler, Tammy McDermott

Annual Budget

Attention Committee Chairs — It's Budget Time!

As we prepare for the upcoming fiscal year, it's essential that every committee plays its part in shaping our Lodge's financial roadmap. Your work, your plans, and your vision matter — and your budget is the key to making it all happen.

To ensure a smooth and well-organized review process, **all committee budgets must be submitted to the Board of Directors by February 16th**. These submissions will be reviewed at the upcoming Board meeting, where we'll work together to set our Lodge up for success.

This is your chance to secure the resources your committee needs, highlight your goals, and help us build a strong, thoughtful plan for the year ahead. The sooner your budget is in, the better prepared we'll be to support your efforts.

If you have questions or need guidance, please reach out. We're here to help you every step of the way. Let's make this year our most organized and forward-thinking yet. Your participation truly makes a difference.



LEWIS P. HOUGHTALING III
President

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New Members



On Sunday, January 18th, three new members were initiated into the Lodge. Their names and photos are in the cabinet in the lounge. If you see them in the Lodge, please say hello.

Front L to R: Chaplain Sharon Deck, **Heather Richards**, Exalted Ruler Tammy McDermott, **Gerald Martino**, **Patrick Wemitt**, Inner Guard Jean Engel

Rear L to R: PDD Christopher Akers, PDD John Piddock, PER Buster Esposita, Trustee Chair Thom McDermott, Tiler Larry Knott, PER Frank Masten, Trustee Mike Delaney, Chris Bellingham and Esquire John Deane.



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Help Needed

Calling All Helping Hands — We Need You!

Our Lodge thrives because of the heart, generosity, and teamwork of our members. Every dinner served, every event hosted, every celebration enjoyed — it all happens because people like you step forward and say, “I can help.”

As we prepare for a busy and exciting year of meals, fundraisers, and community events, we’re building a volunteer call list of members who are willing to lend a hand when needed. Whether you can help once a month or once in a while, your support truly makes a difference.

We’re looking for members who are willing to help with:

- **Cooking** — from full meals to simple prep
- **Waitressing / Serving** — greeting guests, delivering plates, sharing smiles
- **Event Setup** — arranging tables, decorating, and getting the room ready
- **General Event Support** — wherever an extra pair of hands is needed

You don’t need special experience — just a good attitude, a willingness to learn, and a desire to be part of something meaningful. Volunteering is a wonderful way to meet new people, strengthen friendships, and feel the joy of contributing to events that bring our Lodge together.

And truly, for our Lodge to grow and progress, every member should try to work at least one or two events throughout the year. When we all pitch in — even just a little — the load becomes lighter, the events become smoother, and the sense of community becomes stronger than ever.

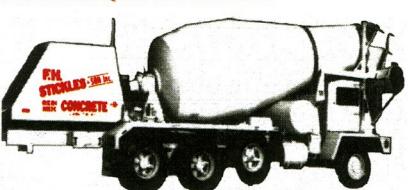
When you join the call list, you’re not committing to every event. You’re simply saying, “Reach out to me — if I’m free, I’ll help.” Every hour you give, every task you take on, helps keep our Lodge strong, welcoming, and full of life.

If you’d like to be added to the volunteer call list, please reach out. We would love to have you with us.

Together, we can make every event warm, memorable, and successful. Your helping hands truly matter. Reach out to any of the chairs to be placed on the call list. Thank you.

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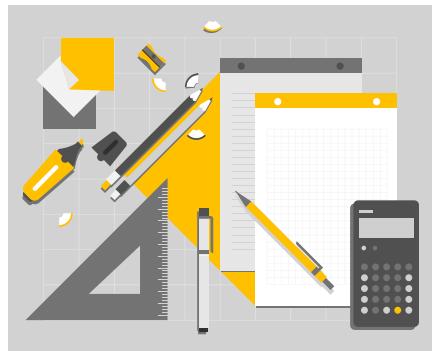
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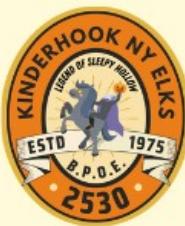
EMERGENCY EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

Emergency Educational Grants (EEG) provide undergraduate college financial assistance to children of deceased or totally disabled Elks in the form of renewable, one -year grants of up to \$5,000. EEG's aren't meant to cover a student's complete education, but they can help cover room and board, textbooks and tuition and fees.

For the 2025-2026, the Elks National Foundation (ENF) has allocated \$131,090 to fund this program. If you know any Elks children who may be eligible to receive an EEG, encourage them to contact me at nursecq@hotmail.com or they can go to enf.elks.org/EEG



Thanks
Colleen Quackenbush
NYS Emergency Grant Chairperson



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Veterans

Veterans Committee

Chris Akers : 858-7134
Darci Hover : 755-3879

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 to Friday from 9:30a - 1:30p

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 leave items in closed bags to keep them clean and dry.

Bartenders Needed at the Lodge.

We need friendly volunteers to help behind the bar at our lodge. Whether you have experience or not, we'd love to have you join us! It's a fun way to meet new people and support the lodge. No experience? No problem—we'll teach you! Just bring your enthusiasm and a smile. Your help will keep the lodge running smoothly and ensure our members and guests have a great time.

Contact
Sharon Deck
at
518-929-7524

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FRIDAY

Dinner at the Lodge



DINNER SPECIALS

Twin Clam Roll Basket

Golden Fried Clam Strips, Cole Slaw, Choice of Fries, Onion Rings, or Side Salad. Cocktail or Tarter Sauce

\$13

Classic Fish & Chips

Battered and Fried Fish, with Fries. Served with Cole Slaw, Choice of Cocktail, Tarter Sauce, or Malt Vinegar.

\$13

Chicken-Bacon-Ranch Sammy

Grilled chicken Sandwich with Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion and Ranch Dressing. Choice of Fries, Onion Rings, or Side Salad

\$13

Grilled Chicken Salad

Fresh Greens and Garden Veggies, With Grilled Chicken. Choice of Ranch, Italian, or Blue Cheese Dressing

\$13

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5:00-7:00PM

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Calendar

Friday Evenings • Dinner Menu. 5pm – 7pm
• Queen of Hearts at 7pm – purchase tickets in the lounge from Larry Knott or ask bartender

Sunday Breakfast Dining room seating with menu options. 8Am - 11am

Lodge Meetings Open to all members – please join us!
• Members: Monday 26th at 7:30pm
• Board of Directors: Monday 19th at 7:30pm

February Menus – served Fridays from 5pm to 7pm

6th Philly cheese steak, french fries or onion rings - \$13 – bar menu available

13th Fish fry, coleslaw, choice of french fries or onion rings - \$13 – bar Menu available

20th Twin Clam Roll Basket **OR** Classic Fish & Chips **OR** Chicken-Bacon-Ranch Sammy
OR Grilled Chicken Salad – all \$13 (*See page 9 for details*)

27th Fish fry, coleslaw, choice of french fries or onion rings - \$13 – bar Menu available

February Events

9th Lodge meeting - Officer nominations close

23rd Lodge meeting - Voting on officers

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Lodge Contacts

Phone Numbers

Lodge	758-2530
Office	758-2538
Emergency	758-0344
Lodge Fax	758-1771
Baby Shower (LeeAnn Alessi)	588-9425

Officers

Exalted Ruler:	Tammy McDermott	704-1866
Leading Knight:	Tom Burrell	577-5265
Loyal Knight:	Rosemarie Neckles	845 902-8499
Lecturing Knight:	Jim Shord	727-5831
Esquire:	<open>	
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

Mailing Address

Kinderhook Elks Lodge
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2750 Rt 9H
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Trustees

Thom McDermott (Chair)	776-9000
Ben Lasher	784-2032
John Piddock PDD	758-2842
Chris Akers PDD	858-7134
Michael Delaney	495-9923

House Committee

Sharon Deck (Chair)	784-3482
Chuck Cotsonas PER	821-2367
John Piddock PDD	758-2842
Gordie Engel	653-4157
Larry Knott	758-7618
Rick Stegmann	712-7125
Kelly McGiffert	545-0022
Greg Monjeau	845-542-0257

Newsletter

Articles must be submitted by the 25th of each month for the next edition.

Send articles and event flyers to editor@kinderhookelks.org
(Graphics, plain text, or a word document is preferred - **No PDFs, please!**)

Committee: Gordie Engel, Bill Cooper, Chris Bellingham,
John Piddock

Advertising/Circulation: Jerry Shook

Website: www.kinderhookelks.org

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