



THE LEGEND

Newsletter of the Kinderhook Elks

April 2026



Exalted Ruler's Message

Fellow Elks,

It is an honor to serve as Exalted Ruler of Kinderhook Elks Lodge #2530. I am grateful for your confidence, and I look forward to a year grounded in the principles upon which the Elks are founded—Brotherly Love, Justice, Charity, and Fidelity—and focused on unity and meaningful growth.

I would like to thank our outgoing Exalted Ruler, Tammy McDermott, for her leadership and dedication to our Lodge. I also extend my appreciation to the Board of Trustees, and to our Secretary and Treasurer, for the commitment and careful work that keeps our operations strong and our mission on track.

This year, we will focus on three practical priorities. First, we will expand partnerships that strengthen our youth programs and deepen our engagement with parents—supporting our young people while also introducing new families to the values and fellowship of Elkdom. Second, we will develop a Lodge talent inventory to better match volunteers with needs, distribute work more evenly, and ensure every member has a clear opportunity to contribute using their unique skills. Third, we will intentionally create more moments of connection and enjoyment, because a Lodge that is active and welcoming is a Lodge that grows.

I ask each of you to take pride and ownership in Kinderhook #2530. Attend when you can, volunteer when you are able, share ideas, and invite others to experience what makes our Lodge special. If we move forward together, united in purpose, we will accomplish a great deal for one another and for our community.

Fraternally,

Kelly McGiffert

Exalted Ruler





On Sunday, March 22nd, Kinderhook Lodge initiated two new members into the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. As usual, the names and photos of the new members are in the cabinet in the lounge. If you see them in the Lodge, please say hello and make them feel welcome.

Front L to R: (Leading Knight) PER Frank Masten, (Chaplain) Sharon Deck, **Jesse Turner III**, (Exalted Ruler) PER Anne Leiser, **Bob Johnson Sr.**, (Loyal Knight) Rosemarie Neckles, and (Lecturing Knight) Kelly McGiffert

Rear L to R: (Secretary) PSP Jerry Shook, (Tiler) Larry Knott, (Trustee) Benjamin Lasher, (Trustee) Mike Delaney, (Inner Guard) PDD John Piddock, and (Esquire) John Deane.



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Installation of Officers



On Sunday, March 28th, the Lodge installed its 2026-27 Officers.

Front L to R: Trustee Thom McDermott, Tiler Larry Knott, Chaplain Sharon Deck, Loyal Knight Rosemarie Neckles, Exalted Ruler Kelly McGiffert, Esquire Kristen Schiffer, Treasurer Joseph Laviano (PER), and Inner Guard Jean Engel

Back L to R: Trustee John Piddock (PDD), PER Charles Cotsonas, PER Joel Dyslin, Trustee Mike Delaney, Trustee Benjamin Lasher, PER Anne Leiser, Organist John Deane, Trustee Christopher P. Akers (PDD), and Secretary Jerry Shook (PSP).



Officer of the Year
PSP Jerry Shook



Citizen of the Year
Ben Webster



Outstanding Merit
Greg Monjeau &
Rosemarie Neckles



Elk of the Year
Abby Shook

Bartender of the Year – Gordie Engel (Picture Unavailable; in Next Month's Newsletter)

Time for the Members

Greetings, Elks!

As your newly installed Exalted Ruler, I'd like to invite all members to a get-together on Saturday, 4/18 at 5 p.m. Please RSVP by adding your name to the sign-up sheet in the Lodge. We'll be serving burgers and hot dogs 🍔🌭, plus a pasta salad—please bring a side dish or dessert to share. We'll also have trivia and a 50/50 raffle 🎰, so come ready for some fun.

I especially encourage our established members to join us and spend time getting to know our newer members, and to bring your ideas for the year ahead. Let's also take the opportunity to network and support one another—many of us already do, from having our garbage collected by a member-owned business to using Todd Stickles to fill our driveways each spring.

I hope to see you there!

Fraternally Yours,

Kelly McGiffert

Exalted Ruler, Kinderhook Elks Lodge #2530



Kinderhook Elks Lodge 2530

Spring Break!

Member Party
Wave Bye-Bye To Winter

Saturday April 18th
5:00PM

Let's party!

- Burgers, Hotdogs, and Pasta Salad
- 50/50 Raffle, Trivia, FUN!
- Bring a Dessert or Favorite Side Dish to Share
- Meet new members, catch up with your friends
- RSVP Don't Wait, Sign Up now in lounge

Open to Members and Their Guests
Not a Member? Stop in for an Application Today

Friday @ The Lodge

KINDERHOOK NY ELKS
ESTD 1975
P.P.O.S.
2530

Friday Dinner at the Lodge
FRIDAY 04-17-26, 5:00-7:00PM

FAMOUS
Bacon Double
Smash Burger **\$13**

With Fries, Onion Rings, or Side Salad

ALSO
GRILLED CHICKEN CAESAR SALAD
- \$13 -

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

In House or To-Go, Open to Members & Their Guests

We also have fish fry's on April 3rd and 10th, and Meatball Subs on April 24th!

It's also a time to possible catch the QUEEN.

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.



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.

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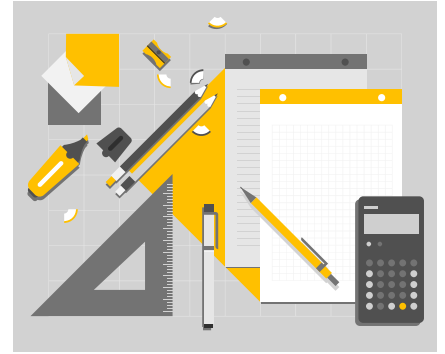
3465 Rt. 9 Valatie, NY 12184
(518) 784-5050



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



ELKS ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

HELP US SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

MONTHLY

LODGE NEWSLETTER

ADVERTISING

- Publicly Available On-line and Printed for Members
- Distributed Monthly

\$125/Year



📍 Kinderhook Elks Lodge 2530
2750 Rt 9H
Post Office Box 514
Kinderhook, NY 12106-0514

🌐 Kinderhookelks.org

✉ advertising@kinderhookelks.org

Show your company's or organization's support by advertising with the Kinderhook Elks. Advertise in our monthly on-line and printed newsletter or, on Placemats used during public dining events like our famous Sunday Breakfasts. Great rates with great exposure.

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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.



On March 13th, the Kinderhook Elks donated \$1,200 of food and hygiene and essential products to the Dwyer Food Pantry. This pantry serves our local veterans and their families that are in need. The donations were made possible by the Beacon Grant that the Lodge received this year for the Elks National Foundation.

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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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



Kinderhook Elks Lodge 2530

MEET THE EASTER BUNNY



Saturday April 4th 2026 - 11:00am-1:00pm
Kinderhook Square



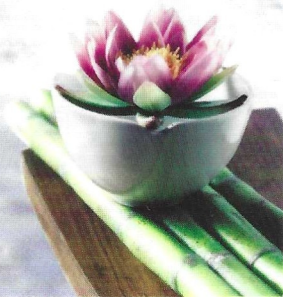
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On Friday, March 25th, the Kinderhook Elks donated \$1,300 in food, personal hygiene and essential products to the Valatie Food Pantry. The donations were made possible by the Beacon Grant that the Lodge received this year.



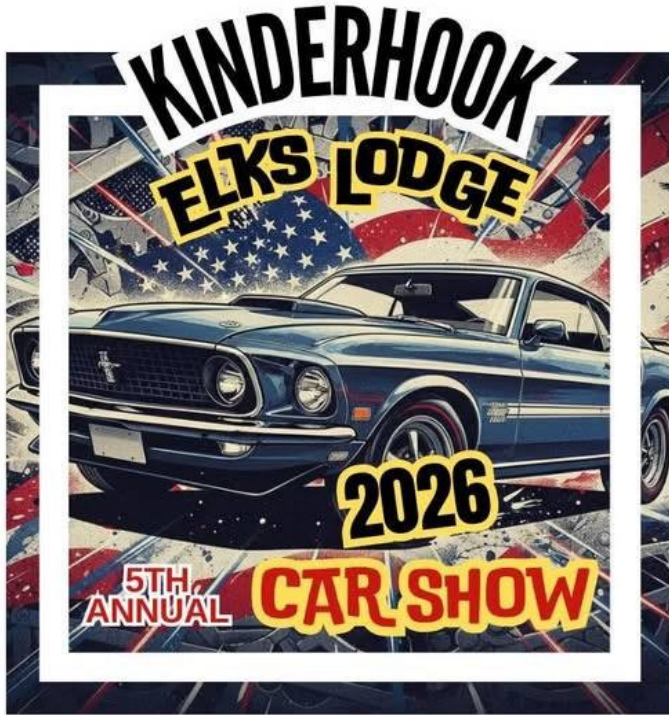
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Calendar

- 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 13th and 27th at 7:30pm
 - Board of Directors: Monday 20th at 7:30pm

April Menus – served Fridays from 5pm to 7pm

- 3rd Fish fry, coleslaw, choice of french fries or onion rings - \$13 – bar Menu available
- 10th Fish fry, coleslaw, choice of french fries or onion rings - \$13 – bar Menu available
- 17th Bacon Double Smash Burger– all \$13 (*See page 6 for details*)
- 24th Meatball Subs, choice of french fries or onion rings - \$13 – bar Menu available

April Events

- 1st Budget Meeting - 7pm
- 11th Hall Rental
- 13th Lodge meeting - 7:30pm
- 18th Members Party - 5pm
- 20th Board of Director’s Meeting – 7:30pm
- 22nd Hall Rental – Postal Meeting - 4:00pm
- 25th District Deputy Clinic – Rensselaer Elks – Breakfast @ 9, Meeting @ 10am
- 25th Hall Rental – Stuyvesant Falls Banquet
- 27th Lodge meeting – 7:30pm



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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: | Kelly McGiffert | 545-0022 |
| Leading Knight: | Open | |
| Loyal Knight: | Rosemarie Neckles | 845 902-8499 |
| Lecturing Knight: | Open | |
| Esquire: | <i>Kristen Schiffer</i> | 929-3490 |
| 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
#2530
2750 Rt 9H
Post Office Box 514
Kinderhook, NY 12106

Trustees

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Thom McDermott | 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 |
| 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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/KinderhookElks



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