



THE LEGEND

Newsletter of the Kinderhook Elks

July 2026



Exalted Ruler's Message

Fellow Elks,

As we step into July, I want to take a moment to share how truly grateful and proud I am to serve this lodge as your Exalted Ruler. The strength, spirit, and camaraderie I see every day at the Kinderhook Elks continue to inspire me.

June was a wonderful month for our lodge, filled with events that brought us together, and reminded us what makes this organization so special. Our **25-Week Club Picnic** was a great success, and our **Flag Day Celebration** was truly something to be proud of—with record-breaking attendance. Thank you to all the members who worked so hard to make these events possible. Your time, effort, and dedication are what make our lodge shine.

I would also like to congratulate one of our own, **John Piddock, PDDGER**, who was installed on June 25th as the **NYSEA State Treasurer**. This is a tremendous honor and a reflection of the leadership and commitment he brings to Elksdom. We are very proud to call him a member of Kinderhook.

July is shaping up to be just as exciting. As we celebrate the **250th birthday of our great nation**, we also look ahead to several important events:

- The **Elks National Convention in Chicago from July 4th–8th**, where our shared mission and values will be celebrated on a national stage.
- Our annual **Car Show on July 18th**, always a highlight of the summer and a wonderful opportunity to showcase our lodge to the community.
- That same day, we will celebrate the **homecoming of our North Hudson District Deputy, Ron Berner**, a special occasion for our district and lodge alike.

One of the most exciting things happening right now is the continued growth of our membership. To our established members, I ask that you take a moment to welcome our new members and help them feel at home. A simple greeting, a conversation, or an invitation to get involved can make all the difference.

To those who have already stepped up to lend a hand—thank you. Your willingness to get involved is what keeps our lodge moving forward. It's truly rewarding to watch our lodge grow not just in numbers, but in participation and enthusiasm.

Let us all remember that kindness and inclusiveness go a long way. The way we treat one another—especially those just joining us—plays a big role in shaping their experience and encouraging them to stay engaged. A warm welcome today helps build the strong lodge we all want for tomorrow.

Thank you again for your continued support and dedication. I look forward to seeing you at the lodge and at our upcoming events.

Fraternally yours,

Kelly McGiffert
Exalted Ruler
Kinderhook Elks Lodge #2530



Volunteers Needed: Help Support Our Fundraisers

Volunteer Support Needed for Upcoming Fundraisers

To continue serving our community and funding our charitable work, we rely on member volunteers. Our primary revenue comes from hall and pavilion rentals (often needing catering support) and from managing parking for local events. Two of our most important fundraising commitments each year are the Columbia County (Chatham) Fair and Kinderhook Community Day.

Ways you can help:

Food preparation and catering support

Event setup and breakdown

Parking coordination and attendant shifts

Interested in helping? Please contact Kelly McGiffert or Chris Akers for schedules, shift times, or more information.

Thank you for your continued support—and for volunteering when you can.

—Kelly McGiffert, Exalted Ruler, Kinderhook Elks #2530



Kinderhook Elks Celebrate State Champion Softball Team

The Kinderhook Elks Lodge was proud to host the Chatham High School varsity girls softball team for a dinner celebration under the pavilion this week. The team, fresh off their **back-to-back NYSPHSAA Class B State Championships**, was recognized for their outstanding achievement and dedication.

Members of the lodge came together to provide a picnic-style meal, highlighted by homemade favorites, and to congratulate the players and coaches on their remarkable success. The event was a great opportunity to connect with the community and honor these talented young athletes.

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare, serve, and set up for the evening—and to the Chatham softball team for joining us. The Kinderhook Elks are proud to support our local champions!



Welcome New Members

On June 22nd, two new members, Daniel DeSautell and Peter Walkes, were initiated into our lodge.



Front Row: Esquire Kristin Schiffer, Loyal Knight Rose Marie Neckles, Daniel DeSautell, Exalted Ruler Kelly McGiffert, Peter Walkes, Lecturing Knight Julia Johnson, and Inner Guard Jeannie Engel. Back Row: Treasurer Joseph Laviano, Secretary PSP Jerry Shook, Lead Knight PER Frank Masten, Trustee Mike Delaney, Trustee Ben Lasher, Trustee PDDGER John Piddock, Trustee PDDGER Chris Akers, and Chaplin James Yager

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Kinderhook Elks Honor Flag Day

On June 14th, the Kinderhook Elks proudly held our annual Flag Day Ceremony, bringing members, families, and friends together in a meaningful display of patriotism and community.

The ceremony honored the American flag as a symbol of freedom, unity, and sacrifice. Highlights included live music by Marty McDermott and thoughtful remarks from Town Historian William Better, who connected our nation's history with our local heritage.

A special Presentation of Flags featured Kinderhook Boy Scout Troop #2113 alongside Lodge Historian Jim Yager, helping bring tradition and significance to the program.

The event also served as a reminder of the strong sense of community we share as Elks, and our ongoing commitment to service, fellowship, and patriotism.

Thank you to all who participated and attended, helping continue this proud Elks tradition.

Congratulations PDDGER John Piddock

On June 25th, PDDGER John Piddock was installed as Treasurer for the NYS Elks Association



L to R: PSP Paul C. Galarneau, PSP, PGT Paul A. Galarneau, NYSEA Treasurer John Piddock, PSP Phil Conaty, PSP Jerry Shook, and PGER Bruce Hidley

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Friday @ The Lodge

Friday, July 3rd



Friday, July 10th



Friday, July 17th



Friday, July 23rd



Friday, July 31st

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

www.kinderhookelks.org

Annual Kinderhook Elks

YARD SALE

Yard Sale Dates:
August 21, 22, 23rd 2026
Open 9AM - 3PM

Location:
Kinderhook Elks Lodge
2570 Route 9H
Kinderhook, NY 12106-0514

Interested in Supporting the Elks ?
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beginning May 1st . Furniture in good condition
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Questions: Contact Rose - 845-902-8499




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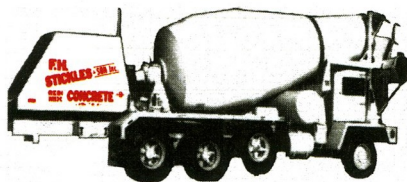
The newsletter committee is looking for someone to edit the newsletter. If you have basic word-processing skills (MS Word or similar) and would like to manage the layout of submitted articles and images in the newsletter each month, please contact one of the newsletter committee members (see last page).

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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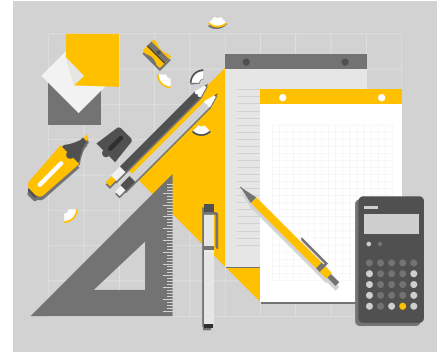
3465 Rt. 9 Valatie, NY 12184
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EMERGENCY EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

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 nurseccq@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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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:

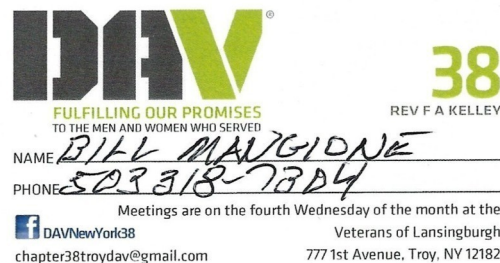
Suite 7
389 Fairview Ave
Hudson, NY

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.

Kinderhook Elks and Guests



FIRE CHATS at the Lodge

🍂 May 1st • 7:00 PM 🍂

★ Kick off the end of spring and welcome summer ★

🍌 Snacks provided 🍌

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

CLEANING OUT YOUR CLOSET? WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU.

USED CLOTHING DROP-OFF SHED

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- 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

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

July Menus – served Fridays from 5pm to 7pm

- 3rd Philly Cheesesteak Sub, choice of french fries or onion rings - \$13 – bar Menu
- 10th Fish Fry, choice of french fries or onion rings - \$13 – bar Menu available
- 17th Smash Burgers – \$13 (See page 6 for details)
- 24th Hot Pepperoni Subs, choice of french fries or onion rings - \$13 – bar Menu available
- 31st To be Determined

July Events

- 4th-7th Grand Lodge Convention in Chicago, Ill
- 4th Independence Day – Lodge Closed
- 9th, 16th 23rd and 30th Darts
- 8th Red Cross Blood Drive 12-6
- 18th Car Show at the Chatham Fairgrounds
- 18nd PDDGER Ron Barner's Homecoming at Rensselaer Lodge
- 20th Board of Director's Meeting
- 27th Lodge Meeting

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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:	Julia Johnson	755-0404
Esquire:	Kristen Schiffer	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 (Chair)	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, John Piddock

Advertising/Circulation: Jerry Shook

Website: www.kinderhookelks.org

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