



# THE LEGEND

Newsletter of the Kinderhook Elks

December 2023



## Exalted Ruler's Message

To my Kinderhook Elks family and friends,

Hard to believe it's December already!!! At times life seems to be just passing you by, other times you can't keep up, sometimes it is amazing, but yet still there are times where you just want to say.... SCREW IT!!! I'M DONE.

We all have had those days, weeks, and sometimes months and years!! Perspective has a ton to do with how we look at something and how we react to what is going on. This past week has been chaotic, exciting, frustrating, annoying, vibrant, and a struggle and so many more adjectives, but for each person and every event and every thing that happens to you, or around you, is all decided on how you look at it. They say if there is a car accident that is observed by 40 people there are 40 different accounts as to what happened, who did what, what each person was wearing, where they were, what they were doing, so on and so forth. Isn't this the same way with things that happen at the Lodge?

One person's perspective on a function such as the special needs prom is - so much work for such a short period of time. Another person: such an uplifting event every person should experience it at least once in their life. If you attend one of these you'll be back for every one that you're able to attend. If you're having a bad day you think .... I can't believe I have to be at the Elk's again tonight. We see things from a different degree, but if we come together as a collective and we try and see things as an other does, they don't have be the exact view, but if we can approach things with an open mind, the event may just be a memory that will last in your heart forever.

I heard recently that people were afraid to talk to me because they are afraid I'm going to .....to what? listen? react? come up with an idea or two to make a change to make things better? that I'm going to do have a meltdown? that I'm going to fly off the handle? REALLY? I have been a member of this Lodge for 16 years, seriously how many times have I had a meltdown or flew off the handle? Years ago, absolutely, if you pushed me too far I'd react!!! After being in the position I've been in, not only as a member but as a chair of this Lodge, and part of the team that runs this Lodge, I have changed.



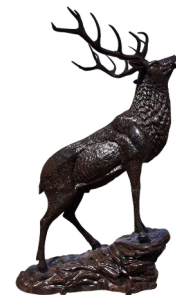
Continued on page 2

I listen, I give my best advice, I try new things, I think I help the best way I know how, but this is where the problem comes in. What I think is helping someone else may think I'm trying to control the situation, I'm not listening, I'm not understanding, but isn't that all of us? Do we enter into a conversation with anger expecting to get a personal attack, are we worried about how someone feels about us or the way we do things? We swear to forget other's faults, but who decides what a "fault" is? You? your spouse? your friends? your clique? How about before we react we take the time to listen, to look at things from another's perspective, to listen without the purpose of responding? I know I am FAR from perfect, I mess up, I ask for forgiveness I ask for help when I don't get things, I try and that's all I can ask from any of you.

Life has some horrible traits, rumors fly while the truth needs a push. It's amazing how when the requests for workers goes out, the same people give up their time to help and there are those who are in it for what they get out of it. The few that do are getting tired, burnt out and older. I get it we all have work, family, outside commitments, things we do. We have a member that is upfront and honest that during the summer months he and his family are gone on their boat, but they are also onboard to help during the winter months with cooking or helping on crews or whatever they can do. I am not asking you to give up your life for the Lodge, but I am asking you to take a step back and actually see the big picture, those that are always there, those that come when they can, those that have no time but give from their wallet or through donations of items or advertising.

I've said it before and I'll say it again, this isn't just my Lodge, it's your Lodge it's the Lodge that supports our community and each other, so as we close this year let's reflect on the good and as the new year approaches let's do with a twist. "Ask not what your country [or Lodge] can do for you - ask what you can do for your country [ or Lodge and community]" JOHN F. KENNEDY

Annie



## Student Volunteer

Grace Perito is a Senior student at Ichabod Crane High School. She started volunteering at the Lodge's Saturday breakfasts in the Fall of 2021, as a way to get her community service hours. She has continued to volunteer at the breakfasts with the 3rd Sunday of the Month Crew. She has worked at the cash register, as a server, and making the toast! Her favorite task so far is expediting orders and making pancakes and French toast!

At Ichabod, she is a member and current President of the National Honor Society, President of the Student Council, Co-President of the Interact Club, and a member of the Model UN Club.

In her "spare" time, she loves to dance! Grace has been dancing since she was in Kindergarten and has been a student at The Isabelle School of Dance since she was in 2nd grade. She has been on their Competition Team the last 7 years. This year, being her last at the dance school as a student, Grace has taken the "leap" to self choreograph one of her solos for the competitions. She spends most of her week at the dance studio, taking classes or helping the teacher by assisting classes.

Grace is currently in the Questar New Vision STEM program, taking high school classes through Questar and college Physics at RPI. Her plan after high school is to attend a college or university to study Chemical Engineering.

**Mon-Sat**  
**10-6**

**Sun**  
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Kinderhook Elks

# DART *Night*

Thursday's starting November 16th

6:30pm - 9 Innings of Baseball

Come on out for a night of fun and laughs.  
Would you like to learn how to play?  
Let's learn together!

Contact Tammy for any questions at 518-704-1866

For Members and their guests

## Special Needs Prom



What a "spooktacular" event on November 4, 2023. A very special thank you to everyone that made this a success. As usual Beth St Clair Bedell and her staff did an amazing job, transforming the dining room into a beautiful theme while keeping it all a secret from the prom goers.

Thank you Rick LaCrosse for making ziti and salads for everyone. Thank you Darci Hover, Terri Brew and Nina Kahn for making the hallway spooky and welcoming and providing the "candy bar".

Thank you to our food servers and dishwashers Barbara MacCormack, Gail and David Smith and Robin Butcher, Melissa & Alanni Huesden A big thank you to Marge Yager and LeeAnn Alessi who did not attend but took time out of their busy day to provide us with cupcakes for our event. Also thank you to Denise Tune ,a prom going Mom, for her delicious brownies. Thank you Mike Blasl, who faithfully donates our prom cake. I was told by two prom goers this cake was a masterpiece!

Thank you Sharon Deck for being our soda pourer. Thank you DJ Brian Michaels for providing upbeat music for 4 hours and keeping everyone on their feet.

Thank you Chris Bellingham for taking photos of every prom goer and giving them a memory to take home.

Also thank you to ER Annie Leiser for joining in the fun and keeping the dancers dancing .

Thank you Kinderhook Elks for providing the venue for this to happen.

Thank you Thom McDermott for helping Rick bring in the big tables. If I forgot anyone, my apologies.





It's Deer Season and, as usual, we are collecting deer hides for the Veterans.

Kinderhook Elks Lodge  
2750 NY 9H  
Kinderhook, NY

Follow the red signs to the labeled barrels to drop. We will be collecting hides up to mid January 2024.



[www.debrino.com](http://www.debrino.com)



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## Upcoming events

### Memorial Service

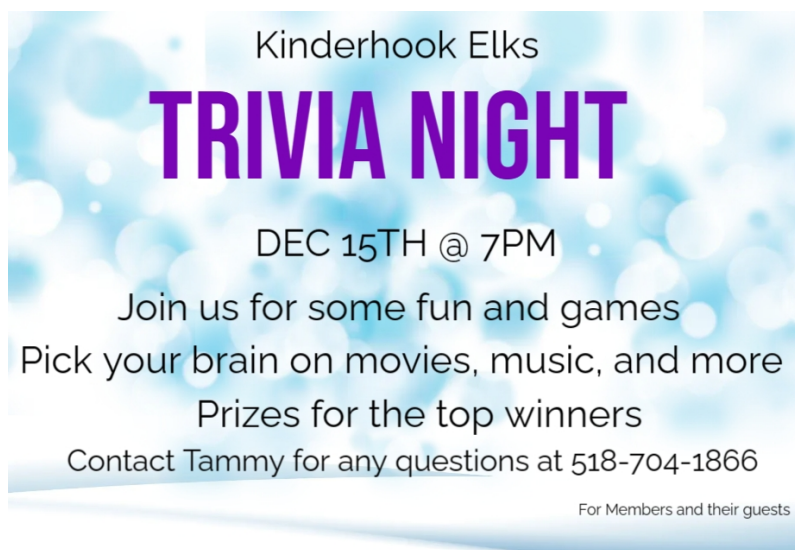
The Annual Elks Memorial Service will be held Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3pm. All are welcome to attend.

### Marion Stegmann

December 9<sup>th</sup> is delivery day for Marion Stegmann. Volunteers are needed to deliver food and Christmas gifts. There is a sign-up sheet in the lounge on the bulletin board.

### Christmas Party

December 10<sup>th</sup> at 4pm to 8pm we'll be having a Christmas Party . Pizzas will be provided around 5pm also salads and desserts. There will be \$1 off on bar beverages.



### Soup Sale

Rick LaCrosse will be hosting Cabin Fever Soup on Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>. The soup will be sold for \$10 a quart, \$5 per pint and \$3 per bowl starting at 1pm. Anyone interested in donating their favorite soup contact ER Annie Leiser.

### Chili Cook Off

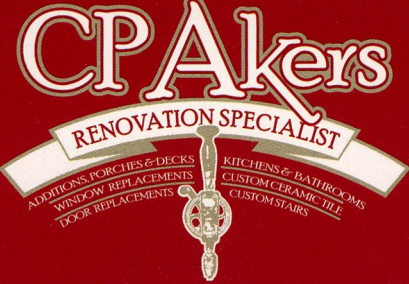
John Piddock has scheduled a chili cook off contest for January 27<sup>th</sup>.

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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.

## 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 and Tuesdays from 9:00a - 12:00p.

## 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.

## Veterans Day Dinner



Rick LaCrosse and crew served roast beef, mixed vegetables, mashed potatoes, gravy, rolls and dessert on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> to veterans and their spouses.

## Members party

Gordie Engel, Bob Tater, Cathy Tater, Donna Gideon, Sandy Dixon, Ron Dixon, Jay Engel, Polly Engel and Richard Stegmann hosted the members party on November 18<sup>th</sup>. The meal consisted of a salad bar, potato bar, steak, rolls and dessert. About 55 members attended. Thanks to all who helped clean up after the meal.

## Trim – a -Tree

About 15 people brought a dish to pass and helped decorate the Lodge for Christmas on November 24<sup>th</sup>. A special thanks to Tom McDermott who hung all the lights and garlands in both the dining room and the lounge.

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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  
or call Dave at (518) 669-0155

**Sunday Breakfast** Dining room seating with menu options. 8am – 11am.

**Lodge meetings** Please join us!  
Members: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm  
Board of Directors: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> Philly cheese steak, fries, au jus available upon request - \$13
- 8<sup>th</sup> Fish Fry, served with coleslaw, French Fries or Onion Rings - \$12 – Bar menu available
- 15<sup>th</sup> Chicken Parm with garlic bread, salad and dessert - \$15
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Meatball subs and chips - \$11
- 29<sup>th</sup> To be announced

## December Events

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Memorial Service
- 9<sup>th</sup> Marion Stegmann deliveries
- 10<sup>th</sup> Christmas party
- 15<sup>th</sup> Trivia night



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# Lodge Contacts

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## Phone Numbers

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Office	518-758-2538
Emergency	518-758-0344
Lodge Fax	518-758-1771

## Officers

Exalted Ruler:	Anne Leiser	758-2196
Leading Knight:	Darci Hover	755-3879
Loyal Knight:	Tammy McDermott	704-1866
Lecturing Knight:	Kelly McGiffert	545-0022
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

## Mailing Address

Kinderhook Elks Lodge #2530  
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Post Office Box 514  
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## Trustees

Ben Lasher (Chair)	784-2032
John Sundwall Jr.	610-5630
Thom McDermott	776-9000
Robin Howes	392-3578
Chris Akers PDD	858-7134

## House Committee

Dave Travis (Chair)	794-8427
Sharon Deck	784-3482
Chuck Cotsonas PER	821-2367
John Piddock DD	758-2842
Tammy McDermott	704-1866
Larry Knott	758-7618
Rick LaCrosse	929-0299

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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)

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

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