



# THE LEGEND

## Newsletter of the Kinderhook Elks

### September 2025



## Exalted Ruler's Message

To the Kinderhook Elks Family,

As summer transitions to those cozy, cooler nights, we're really looking forward to the fun and vibrant activities we have planned for our members at the Lodge this fall.

A heartfelt shout-out to all the members who volunteered to help direct traffic and the committee during our 30th year at the Columbia County Fair! We recognize that this commitment requires a significant amount of effort and long hours in the hot sun, which can be demanding. Yet, the time tends to fly by as fair goers thank you, wish you a good day, and show their appreciation for your assistance. Through this experience, you meet new faces and reconnect with familiar ones, forging friendships along the way. It's truly an uplifting experience!

Please remember to sign up for the workers' party so we can get an accurate headcount and ensure we have enough food. The event is scheduled for Saturday, the 13th, from 3 PM to 6 PM. If you are unable to get to the lodge, please let me know, and I will sign you up.

Mark your calendars for the 9th, because it's Ladies' Night Dinner for all the fabulous ladies of Elks! This is such a fun time to relax, catch up, and make new friends. If you'd like to join us, reach out to Barb McCormick at 518-755-6616. We can't wait to see you all there! Every Elket is welcome!

The paint and sip events were an incredible success, filled with joy and vibrant creativity! Laughter echoed throughout the room as participants let their imaginations run wild, each brushstroke bringing colorful visions to life. The atmosphere buzzed with excitement, and the sheer talent displayed by everyone was truly inspiring. A heartfelt thank you to all who joined us for this unforgettable experience!

The lodge boasts an array of inviting updates that are sure to impress. We've recently finished the respite renovations, transforming the space into a stunning retreat that radiates warmth and comfort. The grounds are alive with a vibrant display of beautiful flowers, bursting with color and fragrance, creating a serene and enchanting atmosphere. A huge shout-out to the dedicated crews whose hard work and commitment have brought our members' visions to life.

Calling All Helping Hands – Bartenders Needed at the Lodge! Our lodge thrives on community spirit, and right now, we need that spirit behind the bar! Whether you're a seasoned pourer or just love keeping the good times flowing, we're looking for volunteers to help with bartending. It's a fun, social way to support the lodge, meet new people, and keep our gatherings lively and welcoming. No experience? No problem—we'll show you the ropes. Just bring your energy, fresh ideas, reliability, and a smile. Every shift you cover helps us keep the lodge running smoothly and ensures guests have a great time.

Don't forget to check the upcoming events calendar for opportunities to volunteer or participate in member activities. We have a few events that need volunteers to help ensure their success. If you have any ideas, please let me know, and we can bring them to life

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

Exalted Ruler Tammy McDermott



## Messages from the GER



It's up to you to Be The Difference this year

After nearly 40 years as an Elks Member and 17 years serving as Grand Secretary, I am honored to now represent our Order as Grand Exalted Ruler for 2025-26.

I first want to thank my wife, Susan. Her dedication and support make this journey possible. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our friends, family, and fellow Elks. We thank you all for everything.

My theme is "Be The Difference." Keep it in mind all year—and beyond.

Be The Difference... in a veteran's life. Be it by helping them out of homelessness, providing Welcome Home Kits, visiting them in their home or retirement center, or mailing them a birthday or holiday card.

Be The Difference... in a student's life. Be it by organizing clothing and school supply drives, holding Hoop Shoot or Soccer Shoot contests, championing Drug Awareness, and promoting the many scholarships offered by the Grand Lodge programs and State Associations.

Be The Difference... in your Lodge. Be it by volunteering, getting involved, and using the many available grants to help those who need it most.

In other words, we need you to Be The Difference for our Order to grow.

Susan and I are embarking on a year of travel, promoting our many Elks programs administered by our Grand Lodge committees. All our Order's endeavors strive to give back to and improve our communities.

Furthering our commitment to charity will make our Lodges even stronger. It will deepen the camaraderie among the Members of our Lodges as we work toward a common goal. As we succeed, upstanding members of the public will see our impact and will be motivated to join us.

Working hard, sharing a vision, and staying true to our principles will bolster the spirit of Elksdom. I am confident sustained membership growth will follow.

The Elks National Foundation, the "Great Heart of Elksdom," is a catalyst for the many things we do. The Community Investments Program, a series of grants that meet specific local needs, turns 20 years old in 2025-26. The grant allocation total has been boosted to \$17.6 million. It will allow the Elks to be a major difference in our communities.

Members have repeatedly proven their commitment to meeting our annual per-capita donation goal, which will be set at \$5.15 per Member in 2025-26. It will go a long way, so thank you for all your efforts.



## Rooted in Community, Growing Through You.

Join us in cultivating growth and progress within our community. With a \$10 contribution, you'll receive a symbolic leaf on our Tree of Life—an emblem of your support for our Major Projects. To participate, please connect with Tammy.

The Tree will be proudly displayed in the lounge, offering a living testament to our shared commitment and collective impact.

## 2026 Most Valuable Student

The 2026 MVP is open and the application closes on November 12, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time.

Applicants will be judged on scholarship, leadership, and financial need.

### Eligibility:

Current high school seniors, or the equivalent, who are citizens of the United States are eligible to apply.

Applicants do not need to be related to a member of the Elks.

High school graduates are not eligible to apply.

Applicants must be citizens of the United States on the date their applications are submitted; permanent legal resident status does not qualify.

Scholarships are available only to students who enroll in four-year undergraduate degree programs at accredited US American colleges or universities.

### Awards:

The Elks National Foundation will award 500 four-year scholarships to the highest-rated applicants in the 2026 competition.

Male and female students compete separately.

Ranging from \$1,000 per year to \$7,500 per year, Most Valuable Student scholarships are for students pursuing a four-year degree, on a full-time basis (minimum of 12 semester hours), in a U.S. college or university. All scholarships are in the form of certificates of award conditional upon the full-time enrollment of the winner in an accredited U.S. college or university.

NOTE: The Chicago office of the Elks National Foundation will announce the 500 national winners of the 2026 contest in April 2026. (Many local Lodges, districts and state Elks associations award their own scholarships through this program. These scholarships are not to be confused with the 500 Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Scholarships.)

The application is available at <https://www.elks.org/scholars/scholarships/MVS.cfm>



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Kinderhook Elks

# 25-Week Club Tickets are on Sale Now for 2026

Starting January 1, we'll be calling two lucky numbers every Wednesday—\$25 each, every week, for 25 weeks!

## Grand-Prize Picnic Blowout

Join us June 20, 2026, at the summer picnic for our big finale. We'll draw for:

GRAND Prize \$1,000  
One - 1st Prize of \$500  
Two - 2nd Prizes of \$250 ea  
Four - 3rd Prizes of \$100 ea  
Four - 4th Prizes of \$50 ea  
Ten - 5th Prizes of \$25 ea

Don't miss your shot at weekly winnings or the ultimate summer jackpot. Contact Tammy McDermott at 518-704-1866 and lock in your ticket before they're gone!

**ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN**

## Save the Dates

Sept 5th – 7th – Elks Annual Yard Sale in pavilion

Sept 9th - ladies' night dinner for all the fabulous lady Elks! RSVP w/ Barb at 518-755-6616.

Sept 12th - Elks Car Cruise in at Chatham Fair Grounds

Sept 13th - Sign up in the lounge for the Worker's Party by Sept 9th

Sept 24th - Elks Book Club - All are Welcome - The Handmaids Secret

Oct - Each Friday at 7pm Gather for Fireside Chats in the Respite Area

Oct 4th - Initiation of New Members.

Oct 5th - Elks Pie Baking Contest

Oct 16th - Holiday Craft Night

Oct 25th - German Fest Dinner





# Baby Shower Update



The Baby Shower program has remarkably expanded, making a significant impact on the lives of those we assist. LeAnn holds three showers each year, offering essential items like books, diapers, wipes, onesies, and outfits. Additionally, she facilitates drawings for valuable items such as car seats, strollers, playpens, and monitors.

We are dedicated to helping anyone in need, and LaAnn comes in early or late to answer the urgent calls for support.

Congratulations, LeAnn, for leading the program to its inspiring growth!

## Kinderhook Elks

### PLEASE JOIN US *Community Baby Shower*

The Kinderhook Elks Lodge will host a Community Baby Shower for residents of Northern Columbia County. Kinderhook, Styvesant, etc. for those expecting or who recently became a Mother.

Raffle tickets at no charge with prizes that include a car seat, or baby monitor or stroller

**DRIVE UP AND PICK UP A BAG OF GIFTS FOR  
YOUR NEWBORN**



**OCTOBER 25, 2025**

**9 am to 11 am**

**RSVP**

**Lee Ann @**

**518-588-9425 BY**

**10/20/25**

**2750 State Rte 9H, Kinderhook**

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**KINDERHOOK ELKS  
2025  
CRUISE-IN BREAKFAST  
SUNDAYS  
8AM-11AM  
5/18, 6/15, 7/20,  
8/17, 9/21, 10/19**

**All cars, motorcycles, trucks, and  
emergency response vehicles are  
welcome!**



**In our outdoor pavilion, we offer freshly prepared  
breakfast sandwiches, refreshing juices, and  
brewed coffee. For a more extensive dining  
experience, our indoor dining room features a  
diverse menu of hearty options, ensuring a  
delightful start to your day.**

**Kinderhook Elks  
Pie Baking Contest**



**Sunday, Oct 5th at 2pm**

Get ready for a deliciously fun event! Bake two pies—one for you to enjoy, and the other to auction off to the highest bidder. Each slice available for tasting will only require a \$5 contribution. There's no entry fee for the pie contest, so we're inviting all Eks and their guests to join in on the fun!

Every dollar raised will go to a charity, showcasing our dedication to giving back. We'll have a panel of three judges who are ready to crown the best pies in the competition, and we'll celebrate both our first and second place winners. Don't miss out on this scrumptious opportunity to taste, compete, and contribute to a great cause!

Contact Tammy McDermott at 518-704-1866 to enter.

**Kinderhook Elks  
CHILI  
COOK-OFF**

**NOV 1ST**

**MUSIC & PRIZES**



**SAVE THE DATE  
DETAILS TO COME**

**Kinderhook Elk's  
Embrace the Spirit of Fall  
with  
Fireside Chats—Gathering  
around the firepit.**

**Starting in October, let's  
ignite our Fridays with  
warmth and connection  
after dinner.**



**For any questions, please contact  
Thom or Tammy.**



**Cars Wanted: Will Accept Honks, Waves, or Confused Stares**  
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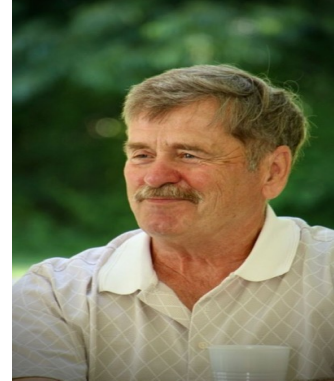


**Chris demonstrates impressive skills. Well done, Chris.**



## To Our Absent Members

Donald "Pete" Brahm February 14, 1947 — August 14, 2025



Niverville-Donald "Pete" Brahm, a Valentine's baby, entered into eternal life at the Hospice Inn, surrounded by his loving family and welcomed into heaven by his son, Donald, who had patiently waited 56 years for the arrival of the best dad ever.

Always wearing a Marine Corps hat, shirt, or jacket, Pete embodied the belief that "Once a Marine, Always a Marine." He served proudly in Vietnam as part of a unique counterinsurgency initiative called the Combined Action Program (CAP), in which a small platoon of Marines was embedded within local villages. His name is forever honored on a brick at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Upon returning from Vietnam, Pete married the love of his life. Together, they built two homes, where they raised their two children. An active and dedicated member of his community, Pete was a lifelong member of the Niverville Fire Department, a charter member of the Kinderhook Elks, a member of the Kinderhook Lake Association, and a proud member of the Valatie Rod and Gun Club. He worked for over 40 years as a railroad man.

Known for his strength, Pete had a lifelong passion for powerlifting. You could find him in his basement gym every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday, pushing his limits. When he wasn't pumping iron, he was out on the golf course. He never missed his children's-and later, his grandchildren's-sporting events, always cheering proudly from the sidelines.

Pete is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Rosemary "Mame"; his children, Peter (Colleen) and Heather (Sid) Ball; and his beloved grandsons, Donovan, Garrett, and Toby Jace. He is also survived by his siblings, Jim, David, and Diane; his nieces and nephews; and many dear friends. In addition to his son, Pete was predeceased by his parents, Anthony and Florence Brahm, and his sisters, Cheryl and Beverly Bergerson.

The family extends special thanks to those who cared for Pete: Dr. Sullenberger of Capital Cardiology; Dr. Ritchie Parrotta of Wynantskill Family Medicine; the nurses, doctors, and staff of St. Peter's Hospital, floor 6BF; and the extraordinary team at the Hospice Inn.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with the family on Sunday, August 17, 2025 from 3-6pm, at the W.J. Lyons, Jr. Funeral Home, 1700 Washington Avenue, Rensselaer. A funeral home service and military funeral honors will be bestowed immediately following at 6pm.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Hospice Inn at St. Peter's Hospital or to an Alzheimer's/Dementia charity of your choice.

## Flower Paint and Sip

To everyone who came out or ordered your very own flower—thank you! This was such a joyful, creative experience. Each piece was a work of art, and as the flowers rest on their fragrant oils, they'll slowly bleed into the petals, filling our rooms with the scents we chose together. What a beautiful way to carry the memory forward.







On Sunday, August 17th, the Kinderhook Elks Car Show Committee and some of its many volunteers presented HAWS (Healing a Woman's Soul - <https://www.hawsalbany.org/>) with a check for \$1,500. The money came from the proceeds of the 2025 Car Show. Thank you to all the sponsors, donors, volunteers, and members of the public who participated and made this possible.

PER Anne Leiser



**FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER**  
SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>, 5:00-7:00PM

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**Sept 5th, 6th & 7th**  
**9am to 3pm**

**\$5 bag/\$10 box sale on Sunday the 7th**

Questions: Contact Rose 845-902-8499

**KINDERHOOK ELKS**

**YARD SALE**



SHOP TILL YOU DROP

Support The ELKS

**The Lodge yard sale is coming up fast. Clean saleable items may be brought to the Lodge starting April 1st. No books, No clothes. Furniture in good condition accepted.**



## Light Up the Night – Wine Bottle Decorating Class!

This hands-on class brought people together to turn regular wine bottles into glowing art pieces, ideal for gifts or home decor. Participants worked with a variety of decorative materials—such as colorful dried flowers, string lights, and stickers—to personalize their bottles, sharing creative ideas and techniques in a friendly and lively atmosphere.



*"We don't just make memories—we stir them up, sprinkle them with laughter, and serve them with a side of 'remember when?'"*



## WHAT I GET FOR MY DUES

I am fortunate to belong to the greatest Fraternal Order in the world.

I have the privilege of associating with exceptional American men and women.

I enjoy the comforts of my Lodge and Club, both socially and fraternally.

I have the chance to participate in all the charitable work undertaken by my Lodge.

I can actively engage in all the programs sponsored by my Lodge.

I have the opportunity to elect the officers who lead my Lodge through a democratic process.

I get to visit other Elks Lodges and experience their warm hospitality.

I have the pride of wearing my Elk insignia, proudly displaying my membership as an Elk.

## KINDERHOOK ELKS BOOK CLUB

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 @ 5 PM**

### OUR NEXT READ



**NEW TIME**

BOOK ONE 'THE HANDMAID' WAS SO GOOD! WE ARE READING THE SEQUEL TO GET OUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!!

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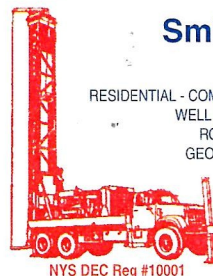
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# Veterans

## Veterans Committee

Tammy McDermott 704-1866  
Darci Hover 518-755-3879

## 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.

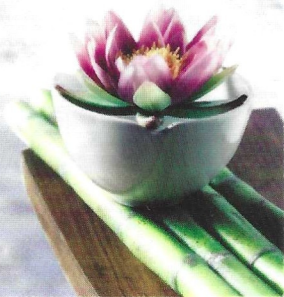
Recycle and help others in need. Please bag your items in closed bags to keep them clean and dry.

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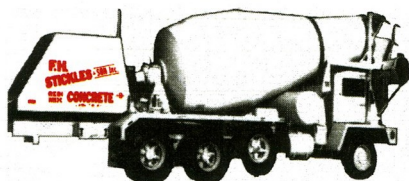
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# Calendar

- Friday Evening** Menu 5pm – 7pm.  
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 the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm  
Board of Directors: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm

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

- 5<sup>th</sup> Philly cheese steaks with fries or onion rings - \$13 – Bar Menu available  
12<sup>th</sup> Fish Fry with coleslaw, french fries or onion rings - \$13 – Bar Menu available  
19<sup>th</sup> Chicken Sandwich on brioche roll – choice of fries, rings or mac salad -\$12 – see flyer on page 10  
26<sup>th</sup> To Be Announced

## September Events

- 4<sup>th</sup> Lake George cruise  
5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> - Yard Sale – 9am to 3pm  
12<sup>th</sup> Elks Cruise in at the Chatham Fair Grounds  
13<sup>th</sup> Workers Party – sign up in the lounge by Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>  
24<sup>th</sup> Crew Chief meeting – 6pm

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**ACROSS FROM THE COLUMBIA COUNTY**  
**AIRPORT ENTRANCE**



## Lodge Contacts

### Phone Numbers

Lodge	518-758-2530
Office	518-758-2538
Emergency	518-758-0344
Lodge Fax	518-758-1771
Baby Shower	518-588-9425 (LeeAnn Alessi)

### Mailing Address

Kinderhook Elks Lodge #2530  
2750 Rt 9H  
Post Office Box 514  
Kinderhook, NY 12106

### Trustees

Thom McDermott (Chair) 776-9000

### Officers

Exalted Ruler:	Tammy McDermott	704-1866
Leading Knight:	Tom Burrall	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

Ben Lasher	784-2032
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
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 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!**)

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Chris Bellingham, John Piddock

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