

THE LEGEND

Newsletter of the Kinderhook Elks October 2025



Exalted Ruler's Message

To the Kinderhook Elks Family,

I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you who has been there for me during my recovery. Your kindness and willingness to help have had a profoundly positive impact on my healing journey. Whether you brought me meals, checked in on my well-being, or offered encouraging words, your thoughtfulness has brightened my days and lifted my spirits in ways I can't express. I'm also grateful to our district lodges for reaching out and showing their support. It's comforting to know that I have such caring people around me, and I genuinely appreciate all that you've done. Thank you for being a source of strength during this time.

Welcome, October! It's going to be a spooktacular month filled with opportunities! Please check the events calendar, as a few events and meetings have been rescheduled. If you have any ideas, please let me know, so we can make it happen.

On the 4th, we gather for visitation and initiation. Let's warmly embrace our new members and visiting lodges by having a strong turnout for this ceremony. The ceremony begins at 3:00 PM sharp, so please arrive by 2:45 PM to join us. It will be a joy to see everyone there. All Elk members are invited to visit our district lodges. This is an excellent opportunity to meet and get to know fellow Elks. The schedule is listed in this edition of the newsletter.

Don't forget our fireside chats every Friday! Thanks to Barbara and Fish, we'll have delicious snacks to enjoy. If you've taken any pictures on the nights I missed, I would greatly appreciate it if you could share them with me. Your contributions help keep us all connected and may even encourage others to join us as well.

With Halloween falling on a Friday, let's bring the holiday spirit to life! Those who dress up will be rewarded with a treat!

Last month, some of the trustees and I had a fantastic time at the Elks convention. It was filled with opportunities to learn, connect, and celebrate all the good work we do as Elks. Plus, getting to know friendly faces from other lodges made the experience even more enjoyable—seeing a familiar face when visiting other lodges is always a bonus. The Spring convention is approaching quickly, so if you have the chance to attend, I encourage you to go. You won't be disappointed! I hope you enjoy some of the pictures we took!

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

Exalted Ruler Tammy McDermott





To our absent members



John R. Sundwall Jr., 84, passed away on September 25, 2025 at his home in Valatie, NY.

John was born in New York City on August 11, 1941. His parents, John and Louise Sundwall, sent him to Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx, where he graduated high school in 1960. He spent summers on Kinderhook Lake growing up. John attended Union College and then enlisted in the U.S.Navy Seabees. He was honorably discharged at the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class. He served in Vietnam from 1967-1968. He began working for Sperry-Univalin 1993, with his wife and two sons.

John coached Little League, CYO basketball and Elks soccer. He served on the Town Board of Kinderhook and was chairman of the Columbia County Conservative Party in the 1990s. John was a member of the Kinderhook Elks for 47 years and was recently awarded Officer of the Year, in 2025. He participated in English Springer Rescue America for many years. John was a capable trouble shooter and enjoyed a plentiful garden every summer.

He's survived by his beloved wife of 58 years, Susan C. Sundwall. Also surviving are his three children Eric, Blaine and Carl and his six grandchildren Elaina, Samuel, Lillian, Anna, Melodi and Sierra. His daughters-in-law, Kathryn and Heather Sundwall enjoyed gifting him Wild Turkey on holidays and birthdays.

Visitation will be at the Raymond E. Bond Funeral Home in Valatie on Thursday, October 2nd, from 4-6 PM. The Kinderhook Elks will present at 5:45. A service will be held afterwards at 6PM. He will be interred at the Gerald BH Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery on October 3rd, at 11:30AM. Special thanks to Hospice.

Donations to the Marion Stegman Fund on John's behalf, can be sent to:

Kinderhook Elks Lodge No. 2530, Post Office Box 514, 2750 Rt 9H Kinderhook, NY 12106-0514

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



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. Andrew P. Scace

518.758.7031 phone

President

bondfuneralhome@outlook.com

Raymond E. Bond Juneral Home, Inc. Valatie, New York

proud to be family owned since 1946

pre-planning questions and arrangements are always welcome















North Hudson District #6260 2025-26 Schedule



Inspections begin at Noon, Appetizers at 2 PM, Ritual at 3PM

***** Bars MUST BE closed during the Ritual ceremony *****

Saturday September 27th: Hudson Visitation

Saturday October 4th: Kinderhook Visitation

Saturday October 11th: Brunswick Visitation

Saturday October 18th: Catskill Visitation

Sunday October 19th: Red Hook-Rhinebeck Visitation (SUNDAY)

Saturday October 25th: Rensselaer Visitation





2025 NYS Fall Convention



ER Tammy McDermott, Ceasar, ER Bob Near Catskill Lodge



Brunswick Lodge Secretary Karen Theoret with Ceasar



ER Bob Near Catskill Lodge







ER Tammy McDermott and PDD ENF Chairwomen Deb Minners with Elroy, THE ELKS NATIONAL "DRUG AWARENESS" MASCOT



PDD, ER Bill Mellan and Trustee Chairman Thom McDermott



PPDGER, District ELKs Training John Minners keeping up the coffee cup tradition



NYS President John Lawless and our Grand Exalted Ruler Bryan Klatt



Grand Exalted Ruler Bryan Klatt and ER Tammy McDermott



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25-Week Club

Tickets are now available for the 2026 Kinderhook Elks' 25-Week Winter Madness Event. Starting January 1, 2026, embrace the thrill each Wednesday as exciting drawings await to uplift your spirit!

Winning numbers will be drawn every Wednesday between 5 PM and 6 PM at the lodge. The winners' names will be proudly displayed on the bulletin board and shared via email. Make sure we have a valid phone number to reach you with the exciting news of your winnings!

If your name is chosen as a winner, your ticket will be returned to the pool, offering you limitless opportunities to shine and succeed time and time again.

We are thrilled to invite you to our Appreciation Party on June 20, 2026, from 1 PM to 4 PM, as a celebration of our collective achievements through the fundraiser! All ticket holders are warmly welcomed to join us for free and experience an afternoon overflowing with delicious food and the chance to win exciting cash prizes!

For any questions, reach out to Tammy McDermott at 518-704-1866.

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





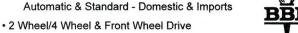
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Founder & Principal Agent

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Blake, REALTORS

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Office: 518-758-1300

ivanburen@bhhsblake.com





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Jeff Smith, MGWC P.O. Box 585, Niverville, NY 12130



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!

Showers are made possible through the Lodge receiving ENF Spotlight Grant of \$2000

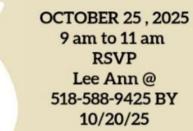
Kinderhook Elks

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



2750 State Rte 9H, Kinderhook

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.

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











hatfieldjoyce@gmail.com Fax: 758-9415







Kinderhook Elks is pleased to announce ...

Our Annual PROM !!!

~~for individuals with special needs~~











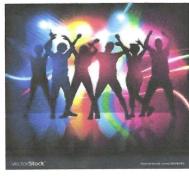
*** Saturday November 8, 2025 ***

(NEW time!) 6:00-9:00pm (NEW time!)

Kinderhook Elks Lodge

There is no cost to attendee and 1 guest or caregiver
 ~Dinner, dancing & photo included~

Formal clothing is requested so dress to impress!!!





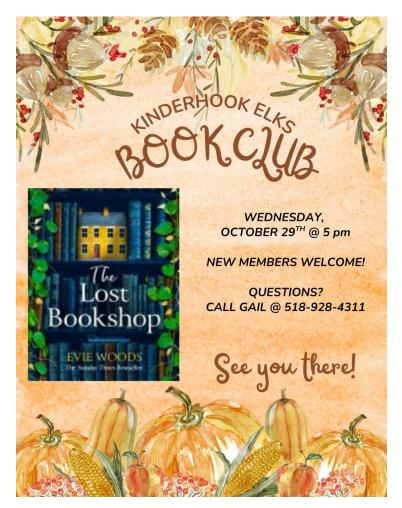


Please RSVP by October 31st!

Rosemarie Neckles

845-902-8499

rneckles@gmail.com





Chatham fair raffle winner Rachael Hamilton pictured with raffle chair Gordie Engel

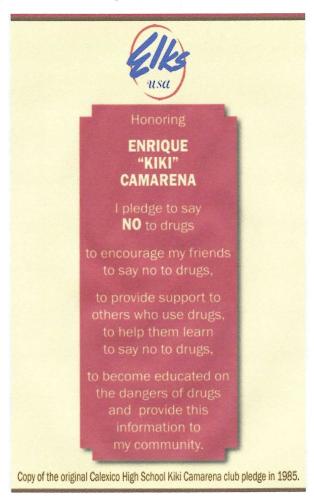
The Red Ribbon History

Enrique (Kiki) Camarena was born on July 26, 1947, in Mexicali, Mexico. He graduated from Calexico High School in Calexico, Calif. in 1966. After graduation, he joined the U.S. Marines where he served for two years. Following his military service, Kiki joined the Calexico Police Department and later moved to the El Centro Police Department. On June 28, 1974, he became part of the Drug Enforcement Administration. Seven years later he was assigned to the resident office in Guadalajara. He worked out of this office for four and a half years and was close to exposing a major drug trafficking operation.

On February 7, 1985, Kiki was kidnapped. That was the last time he was seen alive. He was 37 years of age. Shortly after Kiki's death, U.S. Congressman Duncan Hunter and Calexico High School classmate Henry Lozano launched Camarena Clubs in Kiki's hometown of Calexico, Calif. Club members wore red ribbons and pledged to lead drug free lives.

Red Ribbon Week eventually gained momentum throughout California and later the United States. The Elks have been supporters of Red Ribbon Week since the beginning. The campaign was formalized by President and Mrs. Reagan who served as honorary chairpersons. Congress officially established Red Ribbon Week in 1988.

Nationwide, it is celebrated annually in the last week in October. For the complete Red Ribbon Week history, visit www.elks.org/dap.



Calendar

Menu 5pm - 7pm. **Friday Evening**

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.

Please join us! Lodge meetings

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

October Menus – served Fridays from 5pm to 7pm

Philly Cheese Steak, french fries or onion rings - \$13 – Bar Menu available

Fish Fry with coleslaw, french fries or onion rings - \$13 – Bar Menu available Bacon Smashburger or Kielbasa on pretzel roll - \$13 – see flyer on page 10 10Th

 17^{th}

 24^{th} Meatball Subs, choice of french fries or onion rings - \$13 Bar Menu available

31st To be announced

October Events

3rd -Fireside chat in the respite area

4th – DD Inspection/Visitation w/ Installation 3pm

5th – Elks Pie Baking Contest 2pm

10[™] – Fireside chat in the respite area

17th – Fireside chat in the respite area

19th – Cruise-in breakfast at pavilion

24th - Fireside Whiskey & Cigars (Thom/Tammy)

25th - Drive through baby shower 9am to 11am

25Th − Octoberfest dinner by Jim Shord − 4pm to 6pm

November Events

1st State President John Lawless





Lodge Contacts

Phone Numbers Lodge Office Emergency Lodge Fax	518-758-2530 518-758-2538 518-758-0344 518-758-1771		Mailing Address Kinderhook Elks Lodge #2530 2750 Rt 9H Post Office Box 514 Kinderhook, NY 12106	
Baby Shower Officers	518-588-9425 (LeeAnn Alessi)		Trustees Thom McDermott (Chair)776-9000	
Exalted Ruler: Leading Knight: Loyal Knight: Lecturing Knight:	Tammy McDermott Tom Burrall Rosemarie Neckles 845 Jim Shord	704-1866 577-5265 5 902-8499 727-5831	Ben Lasher John Piddock PDD Chris Akers PDD	784-2032 758-2842 858-7134
Esquire: Chaplain: Inner Guard: Tiler: Treasurer: Secretary: Organist:	Open Sharon Deck Jean Engel Larry Knott Joe Laviano PER Jerry Shook PSP John Deane	784-3482 653-3906 758-7618 758-1741 567-4443 758-7051	House Committee Sharon Deck (Chair) Chuck Cotsonas PER John Piddock PDD Gordie Engel Larry Knott Rick Stegmann Kelly McGiffert Greg Monjeau	784-3482 821-2367 758-2842 653-4157 758-7618 712-7125 545-0022 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: Jean Engel (Editor), Gordie Engel, Bill Cooper,

Chris Bellingham, John Piddock

Advertising/Circulation: Jerry Shook

Website: www.kinderhookelks.org

Facebook: Find us at "Kinderhook Elks Lodge #2530"



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