



# THE LEGEND

## Newsletter of the Kinderhook Elks

### December 2025



## Exalted Ruler's Message

Welcome, December—a month of sparkling lights, cozy gatherings, and renewed hope as we look toward the year ahead.

On Sunday, December 7th at 3:00 pm., we will come together for the Elks Memorial Service. This meaningful ceremony is dedicated to honoring and remembering all of our fallen Elks from our lodge. Your presence will make this tribute even more special.

This month, we are proud to recognize Marion Stegmann. The committee continues to do an outstanding job, and we are grateful for their dedication. Volunteer sign-up sheets are posted in the lounge—your participation helps keep our programs strong.

Our Deer Hide Program is thriving, and we ask for your help in spreading the word. Donations of hides are essential to this effort. Once collected, the hides are sold to the tannery, with proceeds going directly into the Veterans Fund. These funds allow us to support Veterans in meaningful ways.

We are delighted to invite all members to our members' Christmas Party on Saturday, December 20th at 4:00 pm. This special gathering is a chance for us to come together as an Elks family, share the joy of the season, and celebrate the bonds that make our Lodge so meaningful. As part of the festivities, we will hold a gift exchange—please bring a wrapped gift valued at \$20 or less to join in the fun. It's a simple way to spread cheer and create lasting memories together.

As the holiday season unfolds, I wish you joy, peace, and cherished moments surrounded by family, friends, and loved ones. Thank you for the kindness you show, the friendships you nurture, and the countless ways you support both our Lodge and the wider community.

With deep gratitude,  
Exalted Ruler, Tammy McDermott

## Your Newsletter Needs You!



Our newsletter editor has decided to retire her mouse and keyboard. Many thanks to Jean Engel for her faithful service as editor over the last few years.

The committee is looking for someone to fill the void. If you have basic word-processing skills (MS Word or similar) and would like to layout the submitted articles and images in the newsletter each month, please contact one of the newsletter committee members (see last page). Training is available. Work can be done from the comfort of your own home with LibreOffice, which is free, open-source software that runs on MS Windows, Mac OS and Linux.



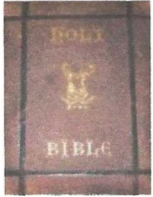
## NY State President's Visit

Early November, our district lodges had the distinct honor of welcoming State President John Lawless, his wife Maureen, and their traveling companions, John Nuzzi and Lisa Capulong. Their visit, joined by District Deputy Ron and State Vice President Mike, was marked by meaningful fellowship, thoughtful exchange, and a spirit of unity that reflects the very heart of our Order.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all lodge members whose generosity and dedication ensured this occasion was both memorable and uplifting. Your contributions created a day filled with warmth, respect, and shared purpose—an experience that will long be cherished by everyone involved.







Kinderhook Elks Lodge 2530

## ELK MEMORIAL SERVICE

December 7, 2025 – 3pm



### *To Our Absent Members*



Every December on the 1st Sunday every elk lodge in America remembers their departed members. This day is set apart as a day Elks gather and freshen with the dew of recollection the tender blossoms of hope and love entwined about the memory of their departed.

***“The fault of our members we write upon the sand their virtues upon the tablets of love and memory.”***

Those whom we shall see no more, whose contributions toward alleviating pain and suffering, whose long standing preceded us in our roles as officers, committee chairs and volunteers who sustained this lodge through times, unimaginable and now celebrated, shall be remembered on this solemn occasion.

Please join the Officers and Trustees in remembering our  
Elks from 2025 on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.



## Chili Cook-Off

Congratulations, Kelly!

Your chili has officially claimed the crown, and it's no surprise—every spoonful was packed with flavor and heart. Winning the chili contest is no small feat, and you've proven yourself as the ultimate chili champion.

We're all so proud of you—enjoy this victory, you've earned every bit of it!

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## Annual Prom

We were truly honored to host another heartfelt prom night for individuals with developmental needs. The Cheetos and punch were especially loved, and everyone danced eagerly throughout the evening. It brings us great joy to have them as our cherished guests at the lodge.





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## Ugly Sweater Contest

The results Are In!

- John took 1st place with a sweater, so cute and creative Santa would want it!
- Ginny snagged 2nd place, proving that sometimes less is more... unless it's glitter, in which case more is always more.
- Tammy claimed 3rd place, rocking a sweater that jingled, sparkled, and confused at least three reindeer.

A huge round of applause to all three champions of tacky threads—your bravery in wearing those sweaters has brought joy, laughter, and possibly mild eye strain to us all.







Kinderhook Elks

# • LODGE • CHRISTMAS • PARTY •



## DECEMBER 20 3PM

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It's that time of year again! The Salvation Army on 40 S. Third St. in Hudson begin their annual Red Kettle Campaign. We ring the bell from Nov 15th, through Dec 24th. All monies collected stay in Columbia County.

For those that aren't aware of all the Salvation Army does:

- They serve approximately 140 hot meals every Monday thru Friday
- They pack their van full of food and deliver to less fortunate areas within the county.
- Every Friday morning they have a food pantry and are currently serving more than 200 people
- They give out turkeys at Thanksgiving and toys for children at Christmas

Barbara MacCormack will be looking for volunteers to ring the bell. Bring your scout troops, sports teams, Christmas carolers, work teams, fire departments, law enforcement, EMTs, and musicians!!!

We ring at ShopRite and Walmart in Greenport, Price Chopper in both Chatham and Catskill. We ring from 8am - 8pm every day except Sunday. Shifts can be 2hrs or more. We even have some one-hour slots (great for those bringing young children).

Show your "peeps" the true meaning of the holidays. Teach your children about giving. Help-out those who need it. Help us to continue our work.

We need you!!

To schedule, please call Barbara M. at 518-755-6616



## New Members

Two new members were initiated at our regular lodge meeting last month. Please welcome Michael Orlando Asare and Julia (Julie) Johnson. May they become true and loyal members.



DECK THE HALLS  
WITH YOUR OWN  
HANDMADE WREATH!

✦ **CHRISTMAS** ✦  
✦ **WREATH MAKING** ✦  
✦ **WORKSHOP** ✦



**DECEMBER 4 • 5PM**  
**\$30PP**

Come together for a holly, jolly time.  
**CONTACT POLLY OR TAMMY FOR QUESTIONS.**

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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

## Community Dinner

Let's extend sincere gratitude to the Veterans Committee and all the volunteers for an amazing Annual Veterans Community Dinner. This event was a meaningful occasion that honored the service and sacrifice of our veterans while fostering fellowship among families, friends, and neighbors.

The Committee's dedication, thoughtful planning, and tireless efforts ensured that the evening was memorable. We are deeply appreciative of the respect and recognition shown to those who have served, and we commend the Committee for its continued commitment to preserving the spirit of gratitude within our community.

On behalf of the many community members who sent letters and extended their heartfelt gratitude, we thank you for creating an event that truly reflects the honor and appreciation our veterans deserve.





# Veterans

## Veterans Committee

Chris Akers 518 858-7134  
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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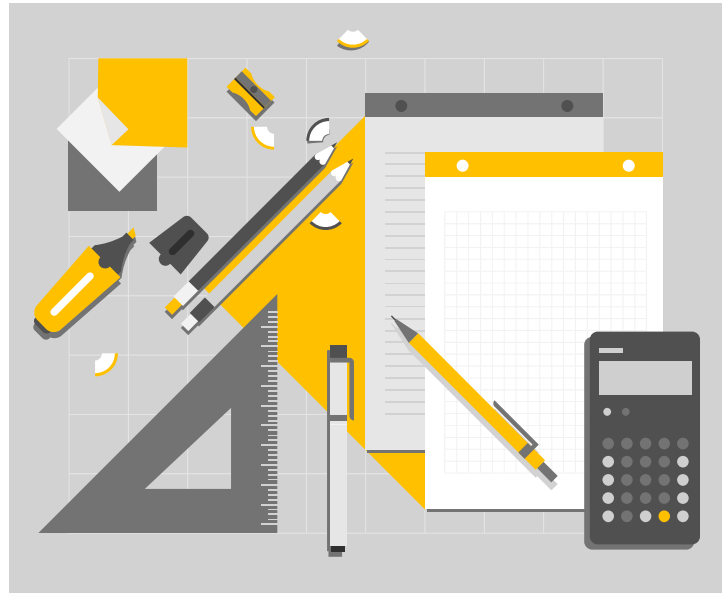


## EMERGENCY EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

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](mailto:nurseccq@hotmail.com) or they can go to [enf.elks.org/EEG](http://enf.elks.org/EEG)

Thanks  
Colleen Quackenbush  
NYS Emergency Grant Chairperson



## 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

Exciting news for all lodge members! Ben has posted the detailed driver and helper sign-up sheet for assisting with Marion Stegmann's upcoming delivery. You can find the sheet pinned on the lodge bulletin board in the common area.

We are inviting all members who are able and willing to volunteer as drivers or helpers to join our dedicated team and ensure a smooth process.

The delivery is scheduled for Saturday, December 13th, beginning promptly at 8:00am. Please arrive a few minutes early to coordinate roles and preparations.

Your participation is highly valued — thank you in advance for your support!

# 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 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm
  - Board of Directors: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm

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

- 5<sup>th</sup> Philly Cheese Steak, french fries or onion rings - \$13 – Bar Menu available
- 12<sup>th</sup> Fish Fry, coleslaw, choice of french fries or onion rings - \$13 – Bar Menu available
- 19<sup>th</sup> Bacon Double Smashburger with french fries, onion rings or side salad - \$13
- 26<sup>th</sup> No dinner menu

## December Events

- Thu 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas Wreath Making - 4-5pm
- Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Veterans' Holiday Party - 1pm
- Sun 7<sup>th</sup> – Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Marion Stegmann
- Sun 14<sup>th</sup> & Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Breakfast with Santa
- Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Members' Christmas Party (sign up by 12/12)

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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:	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

### Mailing Address

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

### Trustees

Thom McDermott (Chair)	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
Kelly McGiffert	545-0022
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](mailto: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](http://www.kinderhookelks.org)

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