





April 2024 The Elks Tale Our 70th Year Flemington Elks Lodge #1928

Picture Not Available

Vern Ainslie, Exalted Ruler

Lodge Officers – 2023 - 2024

Exalted Ruler Est. Leading Knight Est. Loyal Knight Est. Lecturing Knight Treasurer Secretary Tiler Inner Guard Chaplain	Vern Ainslie Gregory Fritz Lee Trautman, PDD Vincent LaSpada George Upton, PER Barry Sheppard, PER Todd Hunt Eric Anderson
Esquire	
Trustee - 1 Year	John Lombardi
Trustee - 2 Year	David Rockafellow
Trustee - 3 Year	William Trstensky
Trustee - 4 Year	Marty Cunningham
Trustee - 5 Year	Robert Mikesh

Officers of the Auxiliary

President	Patti DeLuca
Vice President	Deborah Keyes
Treasurer	Suzanne Lucas, PP
Secretary.	Laura Karnoff
Trustee	Linda Upton, PP

2023 - 2024 Elk of the Year: Citizen of the Year:

Officer of the Year:

Monthly Lodge Meetings

Lodge Members: September to June: 2nd & 4th Wednesday - 7:30 PM

July, August & December: 2nd Wednesday Only - 7:30 PM

Auxiliary Members: September to June: 2nd Tuesday - 7:15 PM

Committee Chairs 2023-2024

Accident Prevention	Robert Mikesh	908.644.0526
Americanism	TBD	000 040 0500
Army of Hope	Bruce Totten, PDD	908.246.0526
Auditing & Accounting	Bruce Totten, PDD	908.246.0526
Better Parades	Gregory Fritz	908.386.0407
Building & Grounds	Robert Mikesh	908.644.0526
Communications	Carmella Shaw	N/A
Community Affairs	Cynthia Orsi- Kuhl	732.966.5704
Community Activities.	<mark>TBD</mark>	
Drug Awareness.	TBD	
Elks Tale Editor	Daniel J Petitt, Sr., PER	201.341.3071
Fraternal Committee	Lee Trautman, PDD	908.996.6724
Fundraising	Cynthia Orsi- Kuhl	732.966.5704
Government Relations	Eric Anderson	908.439.2532
Hoop/Soccer Shoot	Cynthia Orsi- Kuhl	732.966.5704
House Committee	William Trsentsky	908.334.7661
	Randall Kerr, PER	908.328.4091
Lodge Activities	John Lombardi	908.295.4345
Long Range Planning	Bruce Totten, PDD	908.246.0526
Mediator	Lee Trautman, PDD.	908.996.6724
Membership	Barry Sheppard, PER	908.963.7835
National Foundation	Cynthia Orsi- Kuhl	732.966.5704
National Service	Gregory Fritz	908.386.0407
PER Association	TBD	
Public Relations	Cynthia Orsi- Kuhl	732.966.5704
Scholarship	Jeff Anderson	908.439.2532
Sickness and Distress	Michele Seber	908.442.1499
Social/Comm. Welfare	TBD	
Special Needs Children	Suzanne Lucas	609.309.5238
Standing Relief	Lodge Officers	
Youth Activities	William Lesiak	908.787.8746
	Andrea Kennedy	908.581.2522
Website	Carmella Shaw	N/A

The above are listed as the Committee Chairpersons. If you would like to participate in any of these committees, please contact the Chairperson. The lodge can always use an extra hand in accomplishing our goal of supporting the community and it will make it easier for that committee to succeed. If you wish to become a Chairperson, then contact the Exalted Ruler for more information.

At the second Lodge Session on February 28, 2024 the election of Lodge Officers was conducted and the below listed members will serve as Lodge Officers for the upcoming Elk Year of 2024-2025.

Exalted Ruler (Elected) Vern Ainslie

Esteemed Leading Knight (Elected) Gregory Fritz

Esteemed Loyal Knight (Elected) Lee Trautman - PDD

Esteemed Lecturing Knight (Elected) Vincent LaSpada

Lodge Secretary (Elected) Barry Sheppard - PER

Lodge Treasurer (Elected) George Upton – PER

Esquire (Appointed)

Chaplain (Appointed)

1st Year Trustee John Lombardi

2nd **Year Trustee** (Elected) David Rockafellow

3rd Year Trustee William Trstensky

4th Year Trustee Marty Cunningham

5th Year Trustee (Elected) Robert Mikesh

Inner Guard (Appointed) Eric Anderson

Tiler (Appointed) Todd Hunt

Officer Installation

On Friday April 5, 2024 in the Ballroom of the Flemington Lodge there will be a Ritual for the Installation of Lodge Officers.

Ceremonies will begin at 6:00 pm and will be followed by??????

***** CONGRATULATIONS

Michael Pechenski – New Jersey State President - Elect Liz Sorenson - West Central District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler - Designate Richard Turner – West Central District Vice President - Elect

Reports from the Committees

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

No report available.

Bill Trstensky Trustee

HOUSE COMMITTEE NEWS

No report available.

Next House Committee meeting is not scheduled.

House Committee Co-Chair Randy Kerr, **PER**

SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN COMMITTEE

Good Luck to our newly elected Exalted Ruler, Officers and Trustees.

This past month we hosted a bingo for the Hunterdon County PBA benefitting Elite Dance, CEA rented our hall to hold a Special Needs Resource Fair, as well as we catered the Annual Hunterdon Outreach Programs Spring Gala. Busy, Busy, Busy!!!!!

We are catering the Black and White Semi Formal for Midland School Alumni on the twelfth of this month. Also later this month we will be disbursing donations to our list of charities. I will report on that next month.

Until next time,

Suzanne Lucas Chairperson

PER ASSOCIATION

The PER's (Past Exalted Rulers) are scheduled to meet on Wednesday, April 3rd at 7:00 PM in the conference room. If any lodge member has any concerns or questions or even a great idea, please don't hesitate to ask any active PER for answers, since we work with the Exalted Ruler and the lodge officers. Our thanks to all who support our lodge.

We ask that all available PER's try to attend these meetings.

Fraternally,
Barry Sheppard
PER Association President. Pro-Tem

The PER Association will be working with our new officers in their Ritual presentation in reading their parts and the proper emphasis and annunciation of the words. We are also going to assist them in the proper deportment moves to increase their working as a team and increase their impressiveness.

We made copies for each of their job descriptions and duties. Many new members are assuming chair positions and we will be working hard to assist them and answer any and all questions.

The PER Association is wishing our 2024-2025 Lodge

Officers a successful and smooth transition. We will continue to support and assist them in their efforts as Lodge Officers.

Fraternally, Bruce R. Totten – PDDGER State Trustee – WCD

VETERAN'S COMMITTEE

No report available, but there are plans working to honor our veterans and current service members for the upcoming year.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

After writing the March Elks Tale article I realized that we did not have to bring submitting a counteroffer to the lodge floor, but only once the final offer is to be voted on to accept.

We submitted a counteroffer of \$6,000 and were offered a total of \$5,000. Our only concern now is how much and how long access to the lodge may be hampered and affect our charitable work and the income necessary to pay our bills. Working in the best interests of the lodge and our members.

Wishing our officers for the 2024-2025 Elk year the utmost success.

Fraternally,

Bruce R. Totten – PDDGER
State Trustee – WCD
Lodge Long Range Committee – Chairperson

YOUTH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

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AUDITING & ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE

No report at this time.

No report available.

Fraternally,

Bruce R. Totten – PDDGER
State Trustee – WCD
Auditing & Accounting Committee - Chairperson

The Auxiliary of Lodge # 1928

Hi All!

Spring is in the air and warmer weather will be here before you know it. The Auxiliary has been keeping busy with dinners and events and A great big THANK YOU goes out to all the members who have volunteered their time to help.

The February Fireside dinner was a success and the Auxiliary thanks everyone who came out and enjoyed the evening. At the March bingo the number of players was on the lower side but there were still winners and everyone had fun. Don't miss the bingo on Thursday April 4th! Can't win unless you're in! At the March meeting the Auxiliary members voted on going to see the Broadway show "The Play That Goes Wrong" on Sunday May 19th 2024. There will be a limited number of tickets that will be offered to Auxiliary members first and RSVP's must be in by the April 9th meeting.

On Saturday March 16th the Auxiliary had their annual St. Patrick's dinner. There was a small but nice crowd and everyone enjoyed the corned beef dinner. Thank you to our chefs, George Upton and Greg Bodnar. The Auxiliary received thank you letters from both Family Promise and Elks ENF for the donations to their organizations. This goes back to thanking the Auxiliary members for all the work they do to be able to donate to these and more organizations each year.

Save the dates! Sunday May 12th a Mother's Day breakfast 8 am to noon. Bring mom, grandmom, family & friends to a delicious all you can eat breakfast. Monday May 27th once again the Flemington Elks Lodge and Auxiliary will be marching in the Flemington Memorial Day Parade. Transportation will be available to all who are not able to march the parade route. Saturday July 20th.

The Auxiliary's annual Clam Bake & BBQ. More info to come. Congratulations go out to the Auxiliary's lifetime members, Shirley Brunn, Kathy Nemec, Sandy Rowe and JoAnn Totten. Our April birthday members are Carol Creighton, Jane Groff, Eileen Lavagno, Francis Riccardi, Mary Schomp, Debbie Thompson and Patricia Trautman. Happy Birthday! The Auxiliary's next meeting will be Tuesday April 9th at 7:15 pm

Fatti DeLuca

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

NATIONAL FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

ENF - Statewide**

(As of March 24, 2024)

Lodge	Rank**	Members	Total	Per Capita
Manville/Hills	4	178	4926.00	27.67
Bound Brook	18	189	2869.00	15.18
Flemington	37	283	3291.00	11.62
Middlesex	66	221	1759.00	7.95
Clinton	77	201	1366.00	6.79
Somerville	79	1203	7902.00	6.56
Princeton	82	170	1101.00	6.47
Lambertville	102	239	826.00	3.45
		2684	24,040.00	

^{**108} Total Lodges in New Jersey

As we close out the 2023-2024 Elks year I am proud to state that the Flemington Lodge has maintained a level of giving that has doubled our Grand Lodge Per Capita. We look forward to another successful year.

Fraternally, **Daniel J. Petitt, Sr.** – PER

ENF Chairperson

Life Membership Election

No requests at this time

Respectfully Submitted, Barry L. Sheppard Lodge Secretary

**** Lapsation ****

We have come to the end of the 2023-2024 Elk Year. Grand Lodge Statutes require that the below listed names be dropped from the membership roles for non-payment of dues.

We are sad that these members have discontinued their association with the Flemington Elks Lodge and we wish them 'good luck and good fortune' in their futures.

However, if they so desire, they can be reinstated with the proper application.

As of today there are 301 members of this lodge with 13 members who have yet to submit their dues.

Ernesto Cuellar Santiago Cuellar George S. Sirusas Coleen Devlin Joyce Joyce Thomas Joyce Michael F. McClernon Mark Riccadonna Gene Sierp Joseph Moncada Michael Sniscak Richard Whitelaw

B.P.O.E INFORMATION

The Flemington Elks lodge website is: www.flemingtonelks.com for information on upcoming events, lodge happenings, pictures, functions, and general lodge information.

We also have a Facebook Page (public): Flemington Elks Lodge #1928
and a West Central District Group (members only): West Central District
There are also nationwide groups where members can
find information about the world of Elkdom:
BPOE News
We Are Elks
I am an Elk from New Jersey

Please visit these Facebook pages for more information from the Grand Lodge and other Lodges that pertain to all Members of the Elks

<u>A Message from the Lodge Secretary</u>

The lodge is always updating the membership files and it is vital to send in any new information if you have a change of address or phone number or a different e-mail address so that the lodge can keep you informed.

Contact Barry Sheppard, PER
Lodge Secretary
C/O Flemington Elks Lodge #1928
P.O. Box 261
Flemington, NJ 08822

(or drop your new information in the Secretary's Mailbox at the Lodge)

Ramblings by Rich

Hello Everyone,

Well, it's that time of year when it's said "April showers bring May flowers." Do you know what Mayflowers bring? Pilgrims. Do you know what goes up when the rain comes? Your umbrella. Also, why are florists so happy in the spring? Because business is blooming.

I went to the trash recycling center the other day. I tripped and fell. I guess you could say that I was down in the dumps! After that, I went for some Chinese food. Do you know how to make an egg roll? You push it!

The news just reported that there was a fire at the shoe factory. Unfortunately, many soles were lost. The news also reported that a guy accidently drank some invisible ink. He's at the hospital waiting to be seen.

I once dated a girl who only knew four vowels. She didn't know I even existed. My neighbor told me that he caught his son chewing on electrical cords. He had to ground him. He's doing better currently and conducting himself properly.

The other day I found an envelope on my front porch with big black letters on it saying "Do not bend." It took me two hours to pick it up. I was trying to think of one last joke about a tree but I'm stumped.

That's it for this month. A final thought to ponder: if a spoon was made out of gold, would you still call it silverware?

Keep on smiling!

PDD Rich





Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken.

Morning and noon may pass them by,
the light of day sink heedlessly in the West,
but ere the shadows of midnight shall fall,
the chimes of memory will be pealing forth the friendly message:
"To Our Absent Members."

Funeral Services

A reminder to all members and their families that should a Lodge Member pass away, the Lodge Officers will conduct a Funeral Service at the family's request.

Please contact the Exalted Ruler or Lodge Secretary for arrangements.

Sickness and Distress

If you know of a Lodge Member who is ill, home bound or in the hospital please notify the Exalted Ruler or the Lodge Secretary so that information can be posted on the 'Sickness and Distress' board and a visitation can be arranged.

Our Brothers and Sisters need to know that we care about them during their time of illness.

The Grill Room





Grill Room Hours: 6pm to 10pm Tue to Sat Sunday 1245pm to???

The Grill Room is a gathering place for members and their guests to enjoy friendship and socially interact. Open every day, except Monday, for you and your guest's enjoyment as well as watching the most important sporting events available such as the NASCAR races, Golf Tournaments, College Football and the NFL Games as well as the Pickleball Tournaments.

Your hosts will have the TV's set to watch all of the sports action.



Your hosts in the Grill Room are:

Sunday Michele

Monday **Closed**

Monday **Closed**

Tuesday Tiffany

Wednesday Gayle & Annie (also serving up delicious snacks and bar food)

ThursdaySueFridayCynthiaSaturdayMichele

Just a Reminder that the Grill Room is for members and their guests only

LODGE ACTIVITIES

GIVING TUESDAY BENEFITING FLEMINGTON AREA FOOD PANTRY

"Spearheaded by lodge member Gayle Neibart, ten women who are part of the New Jersey Women Over Age 50 Friends Facebook Group, met in the Grill Room on Tuesday night, March 26th for an Evening of Giving to benefit The Flemington Area Food Pantry. Fellow Elks members, Andrea Kennedy and Annie Scully, were also in attendance.

They gathered to make 51 adult and 49 children Easter treat bags, weighing 225 pounds, and filled to the brim with donated non-perishable food, toiletries, candy, games and holiday activities, a total of \$125 in gift cards was also generously donated to benefit families in need in Flemington and the surrounding Hunterdon County area. It was a wonderful night of community service, laughter, and fellowship, and plans for future activities at the Lodge are underway."

Fraternally,

Annie Scully





Murder Mystery Group Photo

"Several lodge members had a fun night dressing up and participating in the Murder Mystery Dinner on March 2nd."





Join in to welcome our new members initiated on March 27, 2024

William Miller
Phyllis Hill
Michael Murphy
Jason Karpi
Ronald Tyminski
Erin Ready
Bernadette Yashkas
Daniel Schuster

ENF Update

The lodge membership voted and approved the disbursement of the Elks National Foundation Beacon and Spotlight grants.

The Beacon grant of \$4,000 was awarded to the Flemington Area Food Pantry for assisting our needy families in Hunterdon County, supporting those families that were going to the Clinton Food Pantry that burned down and the many surrounding organizations that rely on their assistance.

The Spotlight grant valued at \$2,000 was approved to be split between America's Grow-A-Row and the Harvest Family Success Center.

America's Grow-A-Row grows fruits and vegetables and donates them to food pantries, family support organizations and the Harvest Family Success Center. This money will help offset their costs for seed, fertilizers and other products to help maximize their growing season. Harvest Family Success Center gets fresh fruits and produce from America's Grow-A-Row, local farmers and local supermarkets during the offseason.

Every Wednesday from June through the end of October where they have a Farmer's Market set up for senior citizens and families in need. A nutritionist will make something from the available products on hand, give out the recipe and the ingredients to those looking to make the dish at home.

We are very proud of what our lodge was able to do to support these worthwhile organizations. We also have donated between 800-1000 pounds of nonperishable food products and will continue this donation indefinitely.

Your ENF Committee Dan Petitt — PER Lodge Chairman

April 2024

S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S
	1 Blood Bank	2	3 PER Meeting	4 Bingo	5 Officer Installation	6
7	8	9 Auxiliary Meeting	10 Lodge Meeting	11	12	13
14	15 Blood Bank & Tax Day	16	17	18 Cornhole Games	19	20
21	22	23	24 Lodge Meeting	25 Cornhole Games & <u>Karaoke</u>	26	27
28	29	30				



The deadline for submitting any information for the May 2024 Elks Tale is Friday April 26, 2024 April 5 (Friday) Lodge Officer Installation - 600pm

April 12, 1954 Grand Lodge gives a Dispensation to Lambertville Lodge & Liberty Valley Lodge to form the new Flemington Lodge #1928

April 25 (Thursday) 70th Anniversary of the Institution of the Flemington Lodge

May 27 (Monday) Flemington Boro Memorial Day Parade

June 7-9 (Friday- Sunday) NJ State Elks Association Wildwood Reunion

June 30- July 4 (Sunday-Thursday) Grand Lodge Convention in Austin, Texas

September 14 (Saturday) the Flemington Elks Lodge will celebrate **70 years** serving the Flemington-Raritan Community. More information will follow in the coming months.

Test Your Knowledge

What two States have an 'X' in their name?

What State name starts with two vowels?



All proceeds benefit the Lodge Special Needs Children



Answers to 'Test Your Knowledge":

Texas and New Mexico Iowa



Best Wishes to Our Members who are Celebrating their Special Day during April

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1. Charles Miller
2. Richard Nelson, Jr.
3. Thomas Stover
4. Matteo Sebastiano, Stephen Maksymovich, Jr., Robert C. Evens
5.
6.
7. Eric Trautman, James H. VanDerveer - PER
8. Bruce Tomb
9.
10.
11.
12. Benjamin Vieytes, Jr., Patsy Lehman
13.
14. George J. Walker, Bruce Bailey - PDD, William C. McCreery III
15. George D. Muller
16. Michael Sniscak, Thomas P. Carr
17. Felix Rossi, Bruce R. Totten - PDD, Herbert B. Moore, Leslie W. Haley
18. Arthur Brannick, Dennis Tretter
19.
20.
21.
22. Edward J. Jamison III, Robert Lord
23.
24.
25. John Kalmbach, Matthew Lieb
26. Francis X. Brown, Jr.
27. George Sirusas
28. William Maksymovich, Thomas Teubert – PER, Michael J. Eannone, Guy Grignon
29.
30.
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The Flemington Elks Lodge will benefit from your used clothing and books.

The lodge will receive remuneration for all items that are donated.

A used clothing drop-off shed is in the lodge parking lot with the help of Turnkey Enterprises, LLC. Items accepted: clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes and stuffed toys. Please do not leave any other items.



Drop off old hard cover or paperbacks in the book bin.



Please support and give many thanks to our lodge sponsors:























At Your Service. At Your Side.

When a death occurs, your family can depend on us.

We devote ourselves to your family's needs before, during, and after any service you plan with us.

What makes us different:

- · Educational seminars
- Grief support dog
- Valet parking
- · Live funeral webcasting
- Fully ADA compliant facility

We are committed to treating your family exactly how we would like our own loved ones to be treated.

That's our promise to you.



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Hunterdon and Somerset Counties' most experienced printing company.

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8:00am to 4:00pm EST

Note: B & B Press is now printing the Elks Tale as well as other items for the Flemington Lodge.