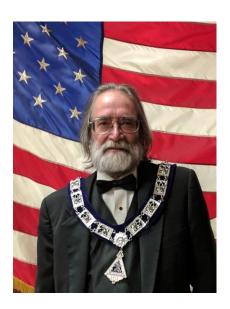






March 2024 The Elks Tale Our 70th Year Flemington Elks Lodge #1928



Randall Kerr, PER, Exalted Ruler



Lodge Officers -2023-2024

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

Officers of the Auxiliary

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

2022 - 2023
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	
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	TBD	
Community Activities.	TBD	
Drug Awareness.	TBD	
Elks Tale Editor	Daniel J Petitt, Sr., PER	201.341.3071
Fraternal Committee	Lee Trautman, PDD	908.996.6724
Fundraising	Carmella Shaw	N/A
Government Relations	Eric Anderson	908.439.2532
Hoop/Soccer Shoot	TBD	
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	Daniel J Petitt, Sr., PER	201.341.3071
National Service	Gregory Fritz	908.386.0407
PER Association	<mark>TBD</mark>	
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	<mark>TBD</mark>	
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)

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??????

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

HAPPY EASTER to All;

The Committee continues to support our Special Needs Children and our efforts will also continue through the new year. It is important to us that we do not lose sight of our goal to give to the needy. Please give what you can and support our monthly bingo games as well as other events.

Until next time,

Suzanne Lucas Chairperson

PER ASSOCIATION

The PER's (Past Exalted Rulers) are scheduled to meet on <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>March 6th</u> 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

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

NJDOT finally sent the proper maps requested by our surveying engineer to be able to do a correct survey.

Our surveying engineer completed his work and it was determined that our sign, fence and illuminated pillars are all in the NJDOT 'Right of Way'. We explained to the NJDOT project manager that these additional costs would affect our charitable projects with our veterans, special needs children and youth programs. We are in the process of getting estimates to move and relocate all of them as well as to disconnect and run the electricity to both the sign and lights on the pillars once relocated within our property line.

On the positive side, we now have an updated survey of our property. The initial quote was for only the frontage, but the surveyor included our complete property at the same low cost.

We are hopeful that NJDOT will assist in offsetting our costs.

Wishing ALL a very Blessed Easter.

Fraternally,

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

UPDATE: The Lodge has sent estimates to NJDOT for our costs to disconnect the electric to the sign and lights on the pillars, move the sign, move and reinstall the fence and demolish the pillars and rebuild in the proper location. NJDOT replied that they would offer a total of \$3000.00 towards the project. Our lawyer said we can either accept the offer or send them a counter offer.

The Lodge Trustees will be addressing these choices and bring their thoughts to the lodge flor for a membership vote. The estimate that was submitted from our contractor was for under \$12,000.00.

VETERAN'S COMMITTEE

No report available, but there are plans working for the upcoming year.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

No report available.
+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

The Auxiliary of Lodge # 1928

Hi All!

Will March come in like a lion or a lamb? But first, at the Auxiliary's February meeting it was decided and voted on that the current officers will stay on for the upcoming year. THANK YOU! The Auxiliary would not be able to go on without these ladies who are willing to donate their time. We also voted on paying for repairs and painting of the hallway and ballroom. We do have to get approval from the lodge and hope to start in August.

Our February Fireside Dinner was another success. Thank you to the ladies who helped and Thank you to all who attended. So, into March we have Bingo which is Thursday March 7th. Join in the fun and see if you are a lucky winner! Doors open at 6 pm and games start at 7:30 pm.

Don't be late! March 12th is our monthly meeting. Items to be discussed and voted on will be about show trips. If there is interest in the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse show "Beehive" we can look into going in April. The show is a musical about the music and celebration of the powerful voices of the ladies of the 1960's. Tickets would be \$92 for dinner and a show. Also, we will be voting on a NYC play for May 19th. Selections are, Hadestown, Moulin Rouge, The Great Gatsby, The Play That Goes Wrong and the Wiz. Join us and get your vote in for the show you would like to see.

We will also be discussing which charities we will be donating to this year. March 16th we will be getting our Irish On at our annual St' Patrick's Dinner. Come out and enjoy George Upton's famous corned beef dinner! Choice of Corned Beef & Cabbage \$25 or Fish & Chips \$20. Stop in for a pint and a bite! Text or call your RSVP's to 908-528-7328.

March Birthday wishes go out to Deborah Cervenka, Eileen Decker, Andrea Dilts, Kim Graper, Elaine Lohnicky, Shirley McPherson, Erica Palko and Barbara Rathbone. Enjoy your special day! The Auxiliary would like to see both our old and our new members joining us at the meetings, at an event or just hanging out in the Grill Room. Remember the Auxiliary is only as strong as its membership and their support. In closing the Auxiliary would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter!

Patti DeLuca

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT



NATIONAL FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

ENF - Statewide**

(As of February 19, 2024)

Lodge	Rank**	Members	Total	Per Capita
Manville/Hills	3	178	3828.00	21.51
Bound Brook	16	189	2844.00	15.04
Flemington	27	283	3165.00	11.18
Middlesex	57	221	1719.00	7.77
Princeton	71	170	1075.00	6.32
Somerville	80	1203	7053.00	5.86
Lambertville	95	239	690.00	2.88
Clinton	107	<u>201</u>	100.00	0.49
		2684	20,474.00	

^{**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

AUDITING & ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE

No report at this time.

Fraternally,

Bruce R. Totten – PDDGER

State Trustee – WCD

Auditing & Accounting Committee - Chairperson

THE TREASURER'S CHEST

Nothing to report at this time.

FRATERNALLY,

George J. Upton - PER

LODGE TREASURER

Life Membership Election

At a Regular Lodge session, Gordon K. Johnson, Jr. of 95 Old Croton Road, Flemington, NJ 08822-5924 has requested Life Membership in the Flemington Lodge.

Under Grand Lodge Statute 14.260 and the Flemington Lodge By-Laws, Article III, Section 2 this member has met the necessary requirements.

At the Regular Lodge session on March 13, 2024 a secret vote will be taken concerning this matter.

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

Robert McCann Michael F. McClernon

Joseph Moncada Michael Sniscak Richard Whitelaw

Mark Riccadonna Gene Sierp

Volunteers needed for these committees:

Americanism

A program of the Elks' Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee. The Americanism essay contest is based on a patriotic theme for students in 5th through 8th grade to promote patriotism.

Community Affairs & Activities

Liaison between the lodge and the local communities to ensure that their needs are provided for by our commitments

Drug Awareness

The Elks Drug Awareness Program distributes literature and organizes events to make kids and their parents aware of the dangers posed by alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs. The Elks are committed to eliminating the use and abuse of illegal drugs by all members of society and believe that in order to ensure a bright future for our country, it is essential that our children be raised in a drug-free environment.

Lodge Activities

Some of the activities the Flemington Lodge conducts are a Flag Day Ceremony, participating in a local Memorial Day Parade or celebration, having a regularly scheduled Blood Bank, Bingo games each month and an Elk of the Year Celebration.

***Of course, if you wish to help out on any other committee please contact that Committee
Chairperson or the Exalted Ruler for more information***



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

a Message from the Lodge Secretary

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,

It's March and St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner. I remember last year on St. Patrick's Day I went out drinking so I took a bus home. That may not be a big deal to you, but I've never driven a bus before. Easter is also coming at the end of the month. Do you know what you call a line of Easter rabbits walking backwards? A receding hare line.

The other day I applied for a job at a local restaurant. I told the manager that I really bring a lot to the table. That made me think back to my first job, posing as a mannequin in a clothing store window. I held that position for a long time.

I was also hired by the local theatre group as a set designer. Later they fired me but I left without making a scene. After that, I tried to be a tailor, but I just wasn't suited for it; mainly because it was a sew-sew job. After that I tried to be a chef figuring it would add a little spice to my life. But I just didn't have the thyme. I took a cooking class and brought my own spoon. It caused quite a stir. I also went to school to become a magician, but I failed the final exam. They were all trick questions.

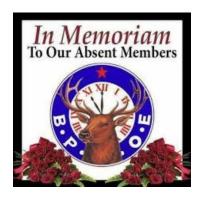
My friend recently asked me where he could get a toupee. I said, "Not off the top of my head."

That's it for this month. Remember, never be afraid to try something new. Amateurs built the arc, but professionals built the Titanic.

Keep on smiling!

PDD Rich





Robert E. Rowe 3.5.23 Floyd L. Evans, Jr 3.13.23

David B. Miller 3.14.23 Arthur W. Rockafellow 3.17.23

Howard 'Kenny' Quick, Jr. 5.6.23 Ronald Cozze 7.11.23

Bruce A. Bailey - PDD - 10.25.2023

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

Something to think about.....

Who are the six U.S. Presidents that are NOT buried on American soil?

<u>Answer:</u> Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, G.W. Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump and Joe Biden. Because they are still alive.

March 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2 Murder Mystery Dinner Show
3 NJSEA Elections	4	5	6 PER Meeting	7 <mark>Bingo</mark>	8	9
10	11 Blood Bank	12 Auxiliary Meeting	13 Lodge Meeting	14 Cornhole Games	15	16 St. Patrick's Dinner
17	18 Blood Bank	19	20	21 Cornhole Games & <u>Karaoke</u>	22	23
24	25	26	27 Lodge Meeting & Candidate Initiation	28	29	30
31 Easter						



The deadline for submitting any information for the April 2024 Elks Tale is Friday March 22, 2024

March 2 (Saturday) Murder Mystery (rescheduled) "Until Death Do Us Part" dinner show. Doors open at 6:00 for a buffet dinner, dessert, coffee and tea. Interactive show will follow. Cash bar will be available. Come in your most crazy wedding attire, regular wedding attire, wedding dresses, bridesmaid's dresses. Dressing up is encouraged but not mandatory. Please contact Tiffany Quick (quicktiffany4@gmail.com) for tickets and further information. Ticket cost will be \$40.00 per person, groups are encouraged. Tiffany will be in the Grill Room on Tuesdays from 6 - 10 for ticket pick up.

March 3 (Sunday) NJ State Elks Association elections. State President and West Central District Vice President voting will be conducted at the Middlesex Lodge between the hours of 200pm to 400pm.

March 16 (Saturday) St. Patrick's Day Dinner featuring PER George Upton's delicious corned beef. Details to follow. Contact Patti DeLuca (908-528-7328) with any questions.

March 27 (Wednesday) Initiation of New Candidates

April 5 (Friday) Lodge Officer Installation - 600pm

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.





Annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner from the recipe by World Famous Chef -George Upton (PER)



Choice of Corned Beef & Cabbage \$25 or Fish & Chips \$20

Text or call your RSVP's to 908-528-7328.



Elks National Foundation

During the St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Saturday March 16, 2024 there will be a presentation to the Flemington Food Pantry, Grow-A-Row Foundation and the St. Magdalen's Hope House Food Pantry. The donations are a result of the work of the members of the Flemington Lodge #1928.

We recognize their good works and we are now able to join their efforts through the ENF Grant Programs.

Please plan to attend not only the dinner, but also the celebration of community.



Food Bank Donations



This activity supports the requirements of the

ENF (ELKS National Foundation)



Application

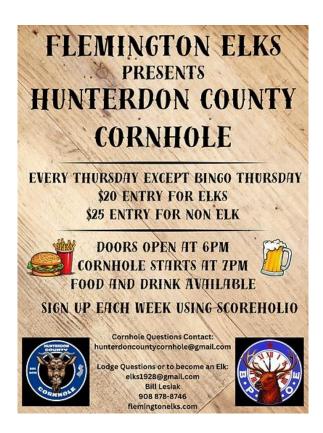
to combine both

"Beacon Grant & Spotlight Grant"

The food donations help to assist with the food deprivation in our community, the monetary grants will be divided between four non profit organizations that are collaborating as a task force.

A donation box is located in the front entrance foyer. Please bring something that is healthy and useful for those in need. As of this writing, the lodge has collected over 450 pounds of non-perishable food items that will help the needy. Please continue to drop off more items until the end of March.





Questions that need to be answered –
What letter of the alphabet is not in any U.S. State name?
The answer is in this Elks Tale somewhere.



Saturday March 2, 2024

Murder Mystery Co. presents "Until Death Do Us Part" dinner show.

Doors open at 6:00 for a buffet dinner, dessert, coffee and tea. Interactive show will follow. Cash bar will be available. Come in your most crazy wedding attire, regular wedding attire, wedding dresses, bridesmaid's dresses. Dressing up is encouraged but not mandatory.

Please contact Tiffany Quick (<u>quicktiffany4@gmail.com</u>) for tickets and further information.

Ticket cost will be \$40.00 per person, groups are encouraged.

Tiffany will be in the grill room on Tuesdays from 6 - 10 for ticket pick up.



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

- Christopher Unger, Daniel J. Petitt, Sr. PER
- 3. Paul Kuhl, Jr.
- 4.
- 5. Michael Stager
- 6. Christopher Grimes, William Lesiak
- 7. Lillian Ibach, Robert Serridge, Jr.
- 8. Allen Rake, Erin Wade
- 9. Jerry Trstensky, Jr.
- 10. Robert Tronolone, William S. Martin
- 11. Joseph Kovi
- 12. Judith M. Gold, Cynthia Orsi-Kuhl
- 13. Philip DeStefano
- 14.
- 15. Joseph Gherardi
- 16. Adam Papa, Todd B. Hunt
- 17. Patricia Cunningham
- 18. Patrick McDonough
- 19. Carl Ondrak, John Slaughter, Donna Agulis
- 20.
- 21.
- 22. Ralph Alexander
- 23. Gary Strouse, Shirley Lewis
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27. Richard Vail
- 28. Peter Nemec
- 29. Paul Blodgett
- 30.
- 31.

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:























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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

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That's our promise to you.



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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.