





Flemington Elks Lodge #1928

December 2024





West Central District Soccer Shoot Participants and Winners

December 2024

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Questions/Comments?
Please email us at <u>ACFKS1@gmail.com</u>

PLEASE EMAIL SUBMISSIONS FOR JANUARY ELKS TALE TO: <u>ACFKS1@gmail.com</u> by **Friday, December 27**

December 2024

Flemington Elks Lodge #1928

OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler	. Vern Ainslie
Esteemed Leading Knight	.Gregory Fritz
Esteemed Loyal Knight	. Lee Trautman, PDD
Esteemed Lecturing Knight	.Vincent LaSpada
Søerøtary	. Barry Sheppard, PER
Treasurer	. George Upton, PER
Tilgr	Todd Hunt
Inner Guard	Erik Anderson
Esquire	.Shirley Lewis
Chaplain	. Andrea Kennedy
Chaplain Emeritus	.Mauro Fanglli, PER
Trustee - 1st Year / Head Trustee	.David Rockafellow
Trustee - 2 nd Year	.Bruce Totten
Trustee – 3 rd Year	.John Lombardi
Trustged - 4 th Year	Robert Mikesh
Trusted — 5 th Year	.Jason Karpi

MUXILIMRY OFFICERS

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

2024-2025:

Elk of the Year ~ tba Citizen of the Year ~ tba Officer of the Year ~ tba

Elks Information

Monthly Lodge Meetings

Lodge Members

Auxiliary Members

Wednesdays at 7:30pm

Tuesdays at 7:15pm

December 11 January 8 and 22 December 10 January 14

WHERE TO GO ON-LINE.

For more information on the Flemington Elks, upcoming events, lodge happenings, pictures, functions and more, visit us online at: www.flemingtonelks.com

or go to Facebook:

Flemington Elks (public): Flemington Elks Lodge #1928

West Central District (members only): West Central District

Additionally, there are nationwide groups where members can find We Are Elks

information about the world of Elkdom: <u>I am an Elk from New Jersey</u>

Let the Lodge Secretary know if your information changes

The lodge is always updating its membership files so it's vital that you send any changes to your information (i.e., change of address, new phone number or e-mail address) so that the lodge can keep you informed... Don't miss out!

Contact Barry Sheppard, FER Lodge Secretary c/o Flemington Elks Lodge #1928 Flow Flemington, NJ 08822

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

Reminders





Attend the lodge meetings.

Let your voice be heard.

It will make a difference!

Lodge Officers are required to attend on a regular basis (it is what you volunteered for after all).

> <u>December Meeting:</u> Wednesday, December 11

After the meetings, join us for dinner (prepared by Chef Shirley) in the bar/ grill and spend some quality time with fellow members.





A simple way to help the lodge

Drop your used clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes and stuffed toys into the shed in the parking lot.

The lodge receives remuneration for all items donated from Turnkey Enterprises, LLC.





Toys 4 Veterans' Tots

Drop off new toys in the marked box in the Flemington Elks Foyer (165 Rte 31S, Flemington) until 12/7.

<u>Project Help</u> will distribute them to Veterans' children for the holidays.



We are in need of more items for the ENF Mystery Grab Bags.
If you have small items to donate for these bags, please bring them to the Elks Grill Room.



CALLING ALL MEMBERS WITH MOTORCYCLE LICENSES



Be part of a new motorcycle committee. If you have a motorcycle license, please call John Lombardi at (908) 295-4345. This is a great opportunity to join at its start and ride for charity (Special Needs Children and Veterans). Feel the pride of riding your motorcycle for a great cause!

You're invited... join

The Elka Sale



The Elks Tale is looking for individuals to help with content. If you have an interest, please contact Andrea Kennedy (text 908-581-2522 or email acfks1@gmail.com).

* * * Lapsation * * *





It's never too late to send in your dues. Remember, as a delinquent member, you are not allowed to use the facilities, attend meetings and cannot be sponsored by a member in good standing. Additionally, dues help us to pay our bills. Everybody's membership dues help.

Please remit your dues of \$86.00 for year 2024-2025 to the Lodge Secretary.

As of today there are 298 members of this lodge with 18 members who have yet to submit their dues.

Lapsation List ~ 2024-2025

Lisa Coffer	Ralph Fortunato	Thomas Freund
Jospeh Gherardi	Michel McClernon	David McPherson
Charles Miller	Thomas Mullen	Vincent Roche IV
Fred Rynearson	Dawn Schenck	Donald Scholl
John B. Smith	Scott Steele	John Stefanchik
Gerald Troisi	Richard Vail	Douglas Wachter

In our Thoughts and Memories



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."

Our Absent Members from the Past Year

Robert John Ferrence ~ 10/29/2024

James Susliewicz ~ 07/25/2024

John Mackay ~ 06/19/2024

Roger L. Cramer ~ 04/26/2024

Joseph M. Iselin ~ 09/29/2024

Daniel J. Petitt Sr., PER ~ 06/30/2024

William M. Creighton ~ 06/08/2024

Robert W. Finberg, PER ~ 11/26/2023

THE ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE IN REMEMBRANCE OF ELKS WHO HAVE PASSED WAS HELD ON SUNDAY 12/1. <u>CLICK HERE</u> TO SEE THE EVENT BOOKLET HONORING OUR ABSENT BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

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, in the hospital or going through something distressful, please notify Gregory Fritz (908) 386-0407, the Exalted Ruler or the Lodge Secretary.

Our brothers and sisters need to know that they are in our thoughts during times of illness or distress.

Committee Chairs — 2024-2025

Accident Prevention	Robert Mikesh	(908) 644-0526
Americanism	Vern Ainslie	(908) 399-2144
Army of Hope	Bruce Totten, PDD	(908) 246-0526
Auditing & Accounting	Bruce Totten, PDD	(908) 246-0526
	Suzanna Gatsch	(484) 542-1725
Better Parades	Gregory Fritz	(908) 386-0407
	Patti DeLuca	(908) 528-7328
Building & Grounds	Robert Mikesh	(908) 644-0526
Communications	Andrea Kennedy	(908) 581-2522
Community Affairs	Cynthia Orsi-Kuhl	(732) 966-5704
Community Activities.	Eric Anderson	(908) 439-2532
Drug Awareness	Cynthia Orsi- Kuhl	(732) 966-5704
Elks Tale Newsletter	Andrea Kennedy	(908) 581-2522
	Barbara Purcell	(609) 915-2324
Fraternal Committee	Lee Trautman, PDD	(908) 996-6724
Fundraising	John "Gemini" Lombardi	(908) 295-4345
Government Relations	Eric Anderson	(908) 439-2532
Hoop/Soccer Shoot	Cynthia Orsi- Kuhl	(732) 966-5704
House Committee	William K. Miller, Jr.	(908) 303-1322
	Tiffany Quick	(908) 788-6737
Lodge Activities	John Lombardi	(908) 295-4345
	Andrea Kennedy	(908) 581-2522
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	Kenneth Whalen, PER	(908) 391-7290
Public Relations	Cynthia Orsi-Kuhl	(732) 966-5704
Scholarships	Dr. Jeff Anderson	(908) 439-2532
Sickness and Distress	Gregory Fritz	(908) 386-0407
Social/Community Welfare	TBD TBD	
Special Needs Children	Suzanne Lucas	(609) 309-5238
Standing Relief	Lodge Officers	
Youth Activities	Cynthia Orsi- Kuhl	(732) 966-5704
Website	Andrea Kennedy	(908) 581-2522

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.

Committee Updates/Reports

ARMY OF HOPE COMMITTEE

Our lodge donated \$200 to the State Army of Hope Committee at the Army of Hope picnic held on September 8th at Lacey Elks lodge in Forked River. The picnic attendance was over 1,400 people and raised over \$250,000 for our Gold Star families and our severely wounded military personnel. This was the first picnic I was able to attend since Covid and it was great seeing the families again that have become part of our family.

The State committee disbursed over \$30,000 to the school aged children of our Gold Star and severely wounded families to assist them in purchasing their Back-to-School supplies. The State committee will again be sending checks to the families with children totaling over \$50,000 to assist in the purchasing of Holiday gifts or to help offset bills that need to be paid.

Please keep our troops deployed in Harm's Way in your thoughts and prayers as they are willing to sacrifice their lives to protect and keep safe their families and ours.

GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES!

GOD BLESS AMERICA!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HANUKKAH TO OUR MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES!

WISHING ALL A VERY HAPPY 2025 NEW YEAR!

Fraternally,

Bruce R. Totten, PDD GERState Trustee, West Central District
Chair, Army of Hope Committee

AUDITING & ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE

No updates/reports at this time.

Fraternally,

Bruce R. Jotten, JDD GER

State Trustee, West Central District Chair, Auditing & Accounting Committee

THE AUXILIARY OF LODGE #1928

No updates/reports at this time.

Patti DeLuca

President, The Auxiliary of Lodge #1928

BOOKING COMMITTEE

No updates/reports at this time.

John Lombardi

Chair, Booking Committee

HOUSE COMMITTEE

No updates/reports at this time.

William K. Miller, Jr. Tiffany Quick

Co-Chairs, House Committee

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

No updates/reports at this time.

Fraternally,

Bruce R. Jotten, PDD GER

State Trustee, West Central District Chair, Loong Range Planning Committee

PAST EXALTED RULERS (PER) ASSOCIATION

No updates/reports at this time.

Fraternally,

Kenneth Whaler

President, PER Association

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Well, here we are—the holidays are at our doorstep, and we have so much to be thankful for. From Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for people experiencing food insecurity to celebrations for isolated populations, there is a wealth of CIP grant projects that address community needs this time of year. For many Lodges, getting into the holiday spirit also means getting into the CIP spirit.

But just like we encourage Lodges to offer support before and after the holidays, there is plenty happening besides turkey dinners and Christmas gifts. To stay in the know, read on!

Saluting Service



While the ENF supports programs for veterans all year round, Veterans Day is an opportunity for a special celebration. Beyond showing appreciation for their service, CIP grant projects address needs that are often specific to veterans, such as PTSD and other mental health illnesses related to their service. Veterans are also more at risk of experiencing hunger than the general population and experience homelessness at almost twice the rate of the general population. CIP grant projects can address these challenges.

Santa Ynez Valley, Calif., Lodge No. 2640 uses its Beacon Grant to provide care packages for unhoused veterans. The Lodge purchases clothing and toiletries and donates them to the local senior center, which maintains a space specifically for veterans who are living outdoors or in unstable housing. Elks keep track of the inventory and purchase accordingly; they are also regularly present at mealtimes to serve and converse with the veterans.

<u>Chattanooga, Tenn., Lodge No. 91</u> uses a Gratitude Grant to host veterans living with PTSD. With a special focus on women veterans, the Lodge holds roundtable discussions between attendees and mental health professionals to destigmatize some of the challenges they face. Representatives from the V.A. and other support groups are also on hand. After morning sessions, the veterans have access to relaxing activities at the Lodge pool, as well as free haircuts and games for their families.

With its Spotlight Grant, <u>Jacksonville, Fla., Lodge No. 221</u> hosts a Community Baby Shower for military families. These families from a nearby base are experiencing financial stressors, which can be exacerbated by the relocation that comes with enlistment. Education professionals present information on the importance of early childhood literacy, while Lodge members host reading circles and distribute baby items.

These are just a few of the ways Lodges use their grants to serve veterans. For more examples, <u>check</u> out this timely feature.

Making Mentors



Unfortunately, many children do not have the support system they need in their home. And, even if they do, there can still be a need for guidance from an adult outside the family. Some Lodges use CIP grants to support mentorship organizations, which open new doors for young people that may have previously seen limited prospects for their future. Check out our recent feature to learn how Lodges collaborate with these partners to broaden the horizons of their young neighbors.

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

(continued)

(\$6k last year)

ENF GAVE Flemington Elks Lodge 2024/2025: \$10,000 WOW THANK YOU!! we need 45 Elks to donate \$10 to ENF to meet the above amount next year ELKS.0RG >ENF-donate

otherwise, we lose the bonuses on the Gratitude Grant to extend to our Community Investment!

Freedom Grant: \$1000 Returning Veterans

Spotlight Grant: CASA SHaW \$2000 11 Foster Children Families in County

Beacon Grant: Flemington Food Pantry Empty Bowl Sponsor \$2000

Harvest Family Success \$2000 Holiday Family Needs

Gratitude Grant: River Crossing YMCA in Hunterdon County \$1500

Healthy Pathways Program for youth and teens- "Empower U Program" for teen girls, "Stand Up Program" for teen boys, and the 7th Grade Initiative (7GI) Program, specifically for 7th grade students. While different in structure, all of these programs collectively provide healthy living activities, "volunteerism", self-esteem building, positive relationship-building, homework help, and so much more.

Fleming/Reading School District \$1500

Karen Minutella Literacy Reading Program using the book "Freckle Juice" by author Karen Blume in FRSD **345** Third Graders.

CIP Tip



Veterans Day is in November. As mentioned above, the CIP office encourages Lodges to consider using grants beyond the holidays. While we understand that many Lodges have annual charitable holiday traditions, a larger impact can often be made after the rush of giving that occurs during this season. Food pantries and other organizations that serve essential needs see a decrease in support after the holidays, while hunger does not abate. If your Lodge has unused grants, using them to fill this gap in service is a great option.

Important Dates

November Elks Veterans Remembrance Month

December 11 Class of 2025 Impact Grants Announced

January 22, 2025 Beacon, Spotlight and Gratitude Grant applications close

Fraternally,

Cynthia Orsi-Kuhl

Chair, Elks National Foundation

MOTORCYCLE COMMITTEE

Happy Thanksgiving. Great news for our lodge and all motorcycle riders! We finally have a motorcycle committee at our lodge as of 11/11/2024. I am excited about this because I believe that we can have fun while we raise money for the lodge and our committees.

All are welcome to join and help us do just that. If you are interested in this committee, please reach out to me and I will instruct on the requirements and get you an application for your patches. I hope everyone has a very Happy Thanksgiving and a Very Merry Christmas.

LET'S RIDE!!

Fraternally, **Gregory Fritz**President, Motorcycle Committee
(908) 386-0407

SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN COMMITTEE

In November we sent in 15 Campers information and provided their parents with the appropriate information on Camp Moore. They were sent an application via email. Todd, camp coordinator, informed us that the 19+ age group spots were full, with a very long waiting list but the under 18 age group still had availability. Therefore, if anyone knows of anyone who could benefit from Elks Camp Moore, please let me know.

The bingo in November had 204 players and on the next evening, Family Promise held their first annual bingo at the lodge, hosting 150+ players. They were very pleased with the results of their first attempt.

On Saturday, December 14th, this committee will be holding a free breakfast to our Lodge & Auxiliary membership from 8am-11am with a meeting to be held after to discuss the possibilities of volunteers committing to a few hours a month to a community event which historically has shown us a healthy following. Please think seriously about this event and hopefully come and support the effort. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lodge for you to make a reservation for breakfast.

Until next time, Swzanne Lucas Special Needs Children Committee Auxiliary Treasurer

Best wishes to all Elks and their families this holiday season!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

No updates/reports at this time.

David Rockafellow

Head Trustee

VETERANS COMMITTEE

FINALLY, PASTA NIGHT IS BACK. Thank you to everyone that came out and supported the Veterans Committee on November 15th. It was a wonderful evening and to see so many members there was absolutely incredible. We are getting a more active start to raising money to put in the VC coffers to help our vets so the pasta night is here to stay I am glad to say, starting in January.

I would like to thank the following people for helping with the event. Bruce Totten (PER), Gregory Bodnar (PER) and George Upton (PER) were the Chefs. Patti Deluca, Suzanne Lucas and Bernadette Yashkas helped by doing dishes, serving and greeting guests. This event showed what the Elks is about and how by helping each other we can afford to help the ones who really need it. So thank you everyone again.

I would also like to wish all members a very Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Fraternally,

Gregory Fritz

Leading Knight Chair, Veterans Committee



YOUTH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

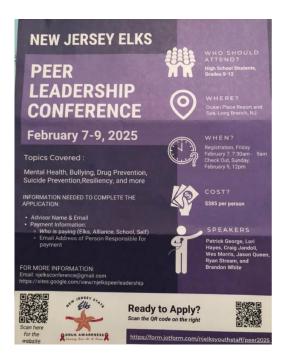
The Flemington Elks Lodge held their annual Youth Activity Elks Soccer Shoot November 1. The Hunterdon FC, Flemington Staples, and the Hunterdon County's Prevention Resources supported this event with 55 competing participants!

Ten winners advanced to an Elk District Soccer Shoot held in Bound Brook 11/3, and winning 4 of the 10 events! The 1st place winners will advance to the NJ State Elk Soccer competition In January, being held in Manasquan, NJ.



Local Elks Soccer Shoot Winners

For future Elks Hoop Shoot pre Registration go to www.FlemingtonElks.com (pre-registration ends 12/5 9pm)



Cynthia Orsi-Kuhl

Chair, Youth Activities Committee

The Grill Room





The Lodge's Grill Room is a gathering place for members and their guests/family members, a place to socialize and enjoy friendships.

Come in to watch sporting events, such as NASCAR, Golf, Basketball, Football and more.

It's open every day (except Monday) for you and your guests' enjoyment.

Your hosts in the Grill Room are:

Annie Carlos Donna Gayle Greg Shirl Sue Tiffany



















Ramblings by Rich...

Ramblings by Rjch



Hello All,

The holidays are coming, and everyone is getting their plans together. Sending out cards is a big tradition. Do you know what the stamp said to the Christmas card? Stick with me and we'll go places! Do you know what the difference is between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet? The Christmas alphabet has noels!

Years ago, I dated a tennis player. Love meant nothing to her. Last night I dreamt that I walked into a bar and there was a long line of people waiting to take a swing at me. I guess that's the punch line. I have a friend who claims he glued himself to his autobiography. I don't believe him, but that's his story and he's sticking to it. This story just on the news - a man got hit by a rental car. He said it Hertz.

This is a great time of year to purchase discounted sky diving tickets. They are having a big fall sale. I just read a story about a king who was only 12 inches tall. He was a terrible king, but he made an excellent ruler. As I was going to work this morning I put my car in reverse. I thought... this takes me back.

That's it for this month, but of course one last thought. As I get older, I remember all of the people that I lost along the way. Maybe a career as a tour guide wasn't the right choice.

Keep on smiling! Happy Holidays!

PDD Rich

Hpcoming Events



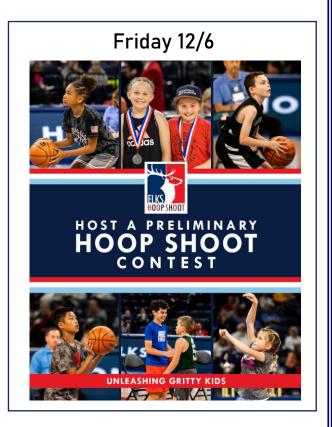
The deadline for submitting any information for the January Elks Tale is

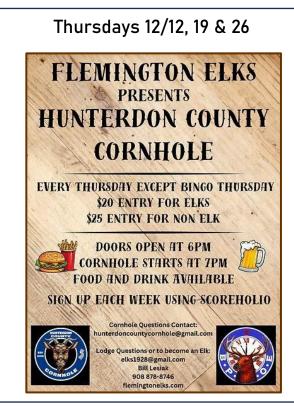
Friday, December 27, 2024

For more information on any below events, visit us online at:

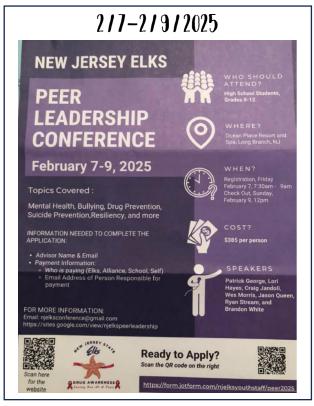
www.FlemingtonElks.com

Thursday 12/5 (always the first Thursday of the month) BINGO RIGHT FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH DOORS OPEN: 6:00PM GAMES BEGIN: 7:30PM FLEMINGTON ELKS 165 NJ-31 South, Flemington, NJ 08822











Birthdays

Best Wishes to our members who are celebrating their special day this month!



1.	Gabriel Esposito
2.	Ryan Green
3.	
4 .	Mauro Fanelli, PER; Maureen Blair; Jan J. Murphy; Robert Fleming,
5.	Brad Stockelberg, PER; David Everitt,
<u>6</u> .	
7.	
8.	
9.	James Finelli; Ben J. Gryctko
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	
14.	Robert J. Partak; Daniel Macy
15.	John Polhemus, Jr.
l6.	
17.	Carmella Shaw
18.	
19.	Charles Stuart, III
20.	Duise Milato Danko Millan
21.	Brian White; Becky Miller
22.	Daniel Loreti; Mark Nace
23.	Tamas Dawan Tru Chacani Dadhan DVD
24. 25.	James Bowen, Jr.; Gregory Bodnar, PVP
26.	
27.	
28.	Gayle Neibart
29.	dayle Neibai 1
30.	John Stefanchik, Edward Bietka, Bernadette Yashkas
30. 31.	Eddie Haggan
<i>-</i>	Ladio i laggan

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for "Best Real Estate Agent" and "Best Entrepreneur" Hunterdon Happening List 2023





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Fill in the blanks:

- I have a head with no body, but I do have a tail. What am I?
- 2. What will never speak unless you say something first? _____

(answers on page 27)

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Answers to "Fill in the blanks":

- 1. A coin
- 2. An echo



P.O. Box 261 165 Route 31 South Flemington, NJ 08822

