



Elks Lodge

B.P.O.E. #274

Muskegon, MI

Volume 75

No. 01

January 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE EXALTED RULER



In the December newsletter I mentioned that I would share more details concerning the recent activity of our Lodge supporting worthy community involvement initiatives. The Board decided earlier this year not to let the Covid pandemic prevent us from supporting this community. We secured several Elks National Foundation grants for this purpose and only this grant money has been used for these worthy programs.

On November 5, of this past year, several members delivered 35 gas/oil cards to the *Muskegon County Department of Veteran Affairs* (MCDVA). We were able to meet with the Director Mike Baauw and deliver these debit cards in person. Valued at \$40 each, the cards were to be used by *Peace Era Veterans* (PEV's) for travel to doctor appointments, work and back-to-work programs. While visiting with Mike, two Army PEV's came to the office and we were able to personally give them each a card. They

were very appreciative and shared their stories of the difficulties they were facing. We were pleased that our Lodge could be of assistance.

In early December we began purchasing items for Welcome Home Kits to support PEV's returning to a home or who had secured temporary housing. The items were delivered to MCDVA on December 11 by four Elks volunteers. The kits were assembled on December 15 by six more volunteers. It was amazing to see the looks on the faces of the PEV's as they saw not only the cleaning materials, linens, and towels, but also the small appliances such as toasters and coffee makers. Knowing that the Elks are assisting those who have served this country is truly heartwarming.

On December 15 we purchased two computers loaded with game software for children in residence at *Family Promise of the Lakeshore*. The software is learning software aimed at improving thinking, reading and mathematical skills for children ages five through sixteen. These children are part of homeless families who are undergoing skills training so that the parents can re-enter the job market and effectively manage their homes and finances. The children will benefit from their time on the computers as the learning software will improve their literacy and help them stay up with their peers who do not have to deal with issues of relocation and learning disruption. It is a little-known fact that every time a child of a homeless family relocates, they lose three months of education and learning. The Elks hope that this initiative will, in some small way, help close the learning gap for these children.

On an unrelated topic, I would like to close this message with a reminder to all members that on Monday, January 18, during our regular Lodge meeting, we will be holding nominations for the officer positions in our Lodge. Nominations will be held for the four chair officers, Secretary, Treasurer, Tiler and one Trustee position. Give serious consideration to serving our Lodge as an officer. If you have an interest in serving the Lodge as an officer or have any questions about the responsibilities of these positions, feel free to contact me personally or any other current officer. I particularly urge our new members to consider nomination for one of these positions. New ideas and energy are always welcome from new officers!

Fraternally,
Greg Parrish
Exalted Ruler

Calendar of Events

January

4 Board Meeting
18 Lodge Meeting

February

1 Board Meeting
15 Lodge Meeting

Elks Care - Elks Share

Muskegon Elks News

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Editorial Staff

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Note: deadline for copy submitted is the 8th of the month.
Typewritten copy preferred.

Officers**Exalted Ruler**

Greg Parrish, PER

Esteemed Leading Knight

Anita Parrish

Esteemed Loyal Knight

Lori Spelde, PER

Esteemed Lecturing Knight

Lesa Ball

Esquire

Open

Secretary

Tony Gregory

Treasurer

Dennis Zimmer

Tiler

Kirk Gorbach

Chaplain

Bob Grams

Inner Guard

Mary Naperala

Trustees

Trustee Chairman

David Cashbaugh Jr., PER
2022

Craig Berens 2024

Robert Tombari 2020

JoAnn Moorehead, PER 2021

David Hite 2023

Meetings

3rd Monday of the
Month, 7:00 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting
1st Monday of the Month,
7:00 p.m.

Dues

Lodge Dues: \$93.00 per year,
payable each April 1st
Life Member Dues: \$43.00

LODGE NOTICES**Nominations**

In accordance with section 3.080 of Grand Lodge Statutes, nominations for the following officers shall be made at the regular session of the Lodge on Monday, January 18, 2021:

Exalted Ruler

Esteemed Leading Knight

Esteemed Loyal Knight

Esteemed Lecturing Knight

Secretary

Treasurer

Tiler

Trustee (One) Five Year Term

Convention Alternate Delegate for National Convention in Tampa, FL, 2021

(Must be a Past Exalted Ruler)

Elections

In accordance with Section 3.090 of Grand Lodge Statutes, the annual election for the following officers will be held at the regular session of the Lodge on Monday, February 15, 2021:

- Exalted Ruler
- Esteemed Leading Knight
- Esteemed Loyal Knight
- Esteemed Lecturing Knight
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Tiler
- Trustee (One) Five Year Term

Convention Alternate Delegate for National Convention in Tampa, FL, 2021

(Must be a Past Exalted Ruler)

Life Membership

On February 15, 2021, The Life Membership vote will be held for the following members eligible for Life membership:

Patrick Bisson

Randolph Dahlquist

Bradley King

William Litogot

Thomas Spaak

**COVID Update**

Due to steadily rising numbers of COVID cases being reported in Muskegon County and the state, this board of directors has voted to suspend Club Room operations like several other clubs until further notice. The safety of the membership is the top priority. Reevaluation will take place on a weekly basis. Membership will be kept as up to date as possible through the weekly blast and the January bulletin. Also, **the Elk's office will be closed on Wednesday and Friday for the next couple weeks. To reach the Elks please use email elkslodge274@comcast.net**

Are You Delinquent?

We do not want to lose any members. If you know any of the following members, please help us contact them and remind them of their delinquency:

Tom Arntson	Rodney DuShane	Cheryl Sharp
Eric Beishizen	Gary Gastineau	James Sowa
Margaret Boertman	Richard Goloversic	Steven Thornton
Theodore Bringedahl Jr.	Tommy Harris	Lee VandenHeuvel
James Cashbaugh	Chad Nowicki	Pamela VanderWalle
Bob Chapla	Stuart Rector	Bruce Wright
Leslee Cothran	Donald Schaafsma	Anthony Zografos

Sickness & Distress

The Sickness & Distress board has been moved by the Lodge office. Everyone's help is needed to keep this information updated. If you know of a member who is at home sick, has been moved to an assisted living home, nursing home, or who has been hospitalized please contact the Lodge office.

Our Chaplin is willing to speak with ill members. We just need your help letting us know there is a member in need. Thank you for your help with this.

Elk Scholarships

Legacy Award: Legacy Awards are \$4,000 scholarships (\$1,000 per year for four years). The Elks Foundation will offer a total of up to 250 awards. Applications must be submitted by **February 5, 2021**.

Who is Eligible?

1. Any child or grandchild (or step-child, step-grandchild, or legal ward) of a living Elk who joined the order on or before April 1, 2018, or a charter member of a Lodge that was instituted on or after April 1, 2018, is eligible to apply. The Elk must also be a paid-up member through March 31, 2021. Great-grandchildren are not eligible.

2. The applicant must be a high school senior.

The applicant must [apply online only](https://elks.org/enf/scholars/). ([Elks.org/enf/scholars/](https://elks.org/enf/scholars/))

1. If the applicant's parent and grandparent are both Elk members, the applicant must apply through the parent's Elks Lodge.

2. Students **may apply** for more than one ENF scholarship; however, they may win only one. In cases where the student qualifies for more than one, we will award the scholarship with the greater value.

3. Legacy Awards may only be applied to accredited US American schools, colleges or universities. (Note: Applicants from Guam, Panama, Puerto Rico and the Philippines may apply Legacy Awards toward schools, colleges or universities in their respective homes.)

Applicants must take the Scholastic Aptitude Test or the American College Test by December 31, 2020.

For more information on the *Legacy Award*, please go to the following internet address which is part of the National Elks Website: [Elks.org/enf/scholars/](https://elks.org/enf/scholars/)

January Birthdays

- 1 Michael Ankeny
James Hamil
James Morton
Marilyn Schneider
Anthony Zografos
- 3 Carma Adams
Ted Carroll
James Cashbaugh
- 4 Lisa Chorny
Kris Guiles
Ryan Skiba
- 5 Karen Selby
- 6 Emil Pinter
Mel VandeGevel
- 9 Gar Fredricks
Michael Jados
Stacy Lockard
- 10 Christopher Haas
Thomas Swanson
- 11 Richard Brothers
Derek Russ
James Westover
- 12 Mary Burde
- 13 James Seastrom
- 14 Mike Regeczi
Joe Stapel
- 15 Nigel Hawryliw
Jack Howell
Richard Nolan
Julie Pedreros
Tracy Zimmer
- 16 Phil Obetts Sr.
- 17 James Wentzloff
- 19 Dana Bryant
Barbara Forrest
Richard Jelier
Mark Wickstrom
- 20 Earl Beam
Diane Panozzo
- 21 Charles Davis
Marvin Howard
Donald Siplon
- 22 Dan Alexander
Steven Haines
Alan Indgier
Lawrence Price
- 23 Bill Graham
- 24 Arthur Iversen
Andrew Jimerson
Terry Norden
Louis Spyke
- 25 Robert Scott
- 26 Leona Teasley
- 27 Kirk Gorbach
- 29 Robert Dubault
- 31 David Kendall



News Flash – Elks Christmas Elves Spotted Writing Letters for Santa

An investigative reporter recently caught sight of two Elk elves writing letters to children of Elks who were reportedly very “nice” this year and deserving of a Christmas present. The children had written Santa letters addressed to our Lodge address.

The elves reported that Santa would have written personally but that he was busy recruiting reindeer in Denmark. He was, however, also spotted stopping at several famous Danish pastry shops during the recruiting trip which delayed his return to our Lodge.

Santa asked the reporter to thank Lesa and Mary for their assistance and says to say to all Muskegon Elks “Ho, Ho, Ho – Merry Christmas!”

MUSKEGON COUNTY VETERANS RECEIVE LODGE ASSISTANCE

Several Elk volunteers, and their willing spouses, made possible the purchase, delivery, and assembly of ten “Welcome Home Kits” for Muskegon County Peace Era Veterans (PEV’s) a reality.

Various items were ordered that are needed in any home when first moving in: pans, blenders, coffee makers, silverware, dishes, linens, towels, and cleaning supplies. A caravan was organized to carry these items to the Muskegon County Department of Veterans’ Affairs (MCDVA). Four days later another group of Elk volunteers, assembled all these items into ten welcome home kits.

MCDVA director, Mike Baauw, thanked our Lodge for the contributions and plans were made to begin the distribution to qualified PEV’s during Christmas week.

Money received from the Grand Lodge ENF Spotlight Grant made this initiative possible. The welcome home kits could not have been sent to a more appreciative group than the PEV’s of our county.

The following pictures show the Welcome Home kits packed by Muskegon Elks (Greg and Anita Parrish, Bob Tombari, and Mike Baauw) for area Veterans:



Michigan Elks Association Charities

Please consider giving to these great charities this year.

Michigan Elks Major Projects:

1. Assist Special Needs Children to become self-sufficient, healthy, contributing citizens.
2. Provide funds for children to attend more than fifteen different therapy camps in Michigan.
3. Provide Emergency Fund Grants for children hurt in accidents, fire, in need of organ transplant, etc.
4. Provide help annually for hundreds of children with medical and therapy equipment. The Major Project annual budget exceeds \$260,000 to help meet those needs.

Michigan Gold Key:

1. Provides scholarships for Special-Needs Students* who want to pursue higher education at an accredited educational institution or a licensed vocational school.
 2. Helps students become self-respecting, self-reliant, self-supporting, contributing members of society.
- Gold Key is currently providing \$2,000 annual scholarships to nineteen Special Needs Students. These are renewable for up to four years for a total of \$8,000 for each student. *Special Needs Students are those who are physically or otherwise challenged.

The Elk Membership Card

I hold in my hand a little scrap of paper 2 ½ x 3 ½ inches in size. It is of no intrinsic worth, not a bond, not a check or a receipt for valuables, yet it is my most priceless possession. It is my membership card in an Elks Lodge.

It tells me that I have entered into a spiritual kinship with my fellow Elks to practice charity Justice, and brotherly love and Fidelity in every word and deed; to forgive and forget the faults of my fellow members; to hush the tongues of scandal and innuendo; to care for the crippled, the hungry and the sick, and to be fair and just to all mankind.

It tells me that no matter where I may travel in the world, I am welcome to visit a place where good fellowship prevails among friends.

It tells me that my loved ones, my home, and my household are under the protection of every member of this great Fraternity, who has sworn to defend and protect mine as I have sworn to defend and protect theirs.

It tells me that should I ever be overtaken by adversity or misfortune through no fault of my own, the hands of every Elk on the face of the earth will be stretched forth to assist me in my necessities.

It tells me that, and a great deal more, this little card, and makes me proud yet humble, that I can possess this passport into a society of friends that are numbered in the millions.

And finally, it tells me that when my final exit from the stage of life has been made, there will be gathered around my lifeless body, friends who will recall to mind my virtues, though they be but few, and will forget my faults, though they may be many.



ER Greg Parrish delivers gas gift cards directly to Muskegon area Veterans.



Director Mike Bauww of MCDVA receives needed gas gift cards from ER Greg Parrish

Peace Era Veterans Get Gassed Up

Money received from the Grand Lodge Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant made possible the purchase of thirty-five \$40 gas/oil debit cards for use by Peace Era Veterans (PEV's) of Muskegon County.

The cards were purchased in early November and delivered to Mike Baauw, director of the Muskegon County Department of Veterans Affairs (MCDVA) on November 5.

While on site two Army PEV's arrived and we were able to personally distribute the first two cards to them. They both told their story of tight funds and the inability to get to doctor appointments and work without this assistance. They were genuinely grateful. Since then, others have also received this assistance and our Lodge has had the pleasure of a personal phone call from one veteran who personally thanked our Lodge for supporting him.