

Elks News
Pittsfield Elks Lodge #272 Newsletter
27 Union Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
March 2009

Officers of Pittsfield Lodge #272
2008-2009

Exalted Ruler	James Arpante, PER	Secretary	Elizabeth Sawyer
Esteemed Leading Knight	Peter Torra	Treasurer	William Sawyer, PER
Esteemed Loyal Knight	Kim Sawyer	Chaplain	Richard Parker
Esteemed Lecturing Knight		Inner Guard	Craig Comstock
Esquire	Emil Marquis, PER	Tiler	William Chapman

Trustees

Brian Andrews, PER Chairman
Beverly Roraback, Jeffrey Walger, Philip Winnard, PER, LTM
Carl Dawson, PDD PER, HLM

Lodge Telephone Numbers 413-447-9243

Website: <http://bpoe272@verizon.net>

Lodge Hours Mon-Wed 3:00pm-11:00pm, Thurs 10:00pm-10:30pm, Fri-Sat 3:00pm-12:00pm
Sunday 12:00pm-8:00pm



DUES FOR THE FRATERNAL YEAR OF 2009-2010 ARE DUE BY APRIL 1, 2009. PLEASE PAY PROMPTLY, YOUR LODGE DEPENDS ON YOUR DUES. PLEASE USE THE PAYMENT NOTICE ENCLOSED IN THE NEWSLETTER.

If you have moved or enjoy the warmth of the south in the winter, please let us know your new address, temporary southern address or we can discontinue sending the newsletter for a few months. It is important to let us know because the lodge has to pay the postage to have your newsletter to be returned to us

Installation of officers will be Saturday, March 21, 2009. Please plan on attending. In order to have an accurate meal count, please sign up at the bar.

Balloting for membership - March 18, 2009

Seth Di Grigoli Proposed by Kari Sawyer

Shipper

March Meetings

March 3rd	Trustee's Meeting	7:00PM
March 4th	Regular Meeting	7:30PM
March 10th	PER Meeting	6:30PM
	House Committee	7:00PM
March 17th	Trustee's Meeting	7:00PM



Happy March Birthday's

Joelle "Mom" Chapman	3/5	Michelle Pride	3/23
Kathy Turner	3/5	Thomas Sacchetti	3/23
Mark Whalen	3/5	Francis Mangiardi, Sr	3/25
Paul Atkinson	3/6	Armand Walger	3/25
Salvatore Adornetto	3/12	Edward Finnegan	3/26
Ruth Greenleaf	3/14	Rick Pierce	3/27
Robert Huggins	3/15	Patrick Torra, Jr	3/27
William Kirby	3/15	Richard Spencer	3/28
John Higgins	3/16	William Avery	3/29
Richard Gaviorno	3/16	John Drury	3/29
E Bruce Gorton	3/17	Richard Walsh	3/29
Laura Mattie Hale	3/20	John Drury	3/29
Mark Pooper	3/21	Alan Barnaby	3/31
Myrtle Sawyer	3/22	Edward Scolforo	3/31
Michael Ziemek	3/22		

*****If you visit the lodge on your birthday you can receive a beverage of your choice on the house*****

If we are missing your Birthday and you are a member in good standing, please let us know by calling the lodge.

Reminder

Attendance Raffle

The new 50/50 meeting attendance raffle, here's how it works -----

1. You must attend at least one meeting during the month.
2. Purchase a \$2.00 raffle ticket in the lodge room at each meeting. (only one per person)
3. Drawings will be held after the second meeting of each month.
4. You need not be present at the second meeting to win. (but if you have 2 tickets you have a better chance to win)

The more people the more money!!!!

February Winner - Pete Torra

Sunday Breakfast

Do not forget to come to the Lodge for a fantastic Sunday breakfast starting at **\$4.00** per person - omelets starting at **\$5.00** per person. Hash and extra meat will be extra.

Price includes breakfast, juice & coffee.

Cooked by the best volunteers in the Lodge

Served from 8:00AM to 11:00AM

Bring the whole family!!

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION
Carl W. Dawson, Sr., P.E.R., P.D.D., H.L.M.

The State Scholarship applications have been submitted to the State Association for judging. Good luck to all the applicants. Next we will have our local scholarship applications coming in. Due to the financial crisis with Bingo, the number and amounts of grants will be limited.

Thanks to Craig Laurin for his donation last month. That brings our per capita to \$2.793. The GER's goal this year is \$4.50, but we need at least \$421 to reach it and March 15th is fast approaching. Times are tough, but I feel we can do it if we try. Please help!!

Enclosed is a fact sheet showing what we contributed last year and what we received in return, as well as what it was used for. Please read it and see how important your \$10.00 is.

Editors Message

Everyone is certainly welcome and encouraged to provide articles for the newsletter. Please leave your written article at the lodge to the attention of Bill Sawyer or e-mail your article to wsawyer1@berkshire.rr.com If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically, let me know via e-mail at the address above, please be sure to indicate Elks Newsletter in the subject line.

If you wish to rent the hall you must book the party through the House Committee Chairperson, Brian Andrews. Members and non-members must complete a Facility Usage Agreement in order to secure the requested date.

Grand Exalted Ruler's Message:

Well folks, March has finally arrived, the last month of this 2008-2009 Lodge year. Hopefully the records will show that this has been a good, perhaps even great, year for each of you, your Lodge and our Order. Hopefully you and your Lodge have made your goals and you can hold you head high and boast of the many accomplishments, as well as how you helped and/or fulfilled your responsibilities.

On the other hand, if you haven't quite reached your goals yet, use the days remaining until March 31st to "get 'er done"!! Install that last class of waiting candidates, contact every delinquent member and convince them that they are important to your Lodge and our Order. Get their dues, canvass the membership, hold that last fundraiser, collect those dollars and send that final check for the year to the Elks National Foundation. As a Member of the Army of Hope, do another good deed for the family of a currently active member of the military, help a Veteran in a VA facility or in your community, and/or distribute Drug Awareness materials to youth in your community. Do whatever is needed to reach your goals and end your Lodge year on a positive and successful note!!

For those of you who are moving on to new positions of responsibility, March should be a time for preparation. For the newly elected and soon-to-be-installed Officers, it is a time to learn your Ritual parts. Be ready to stand with pride before your Members on that first meeting night of 2009-2010 and conduct the opening and closing with dignity and from memory. Be ready to do the same with the Ritual of Initiation soon thereafter. It is time for the Officers to become a team working together.

Also for the soon-to-be Officers of 2009-2010, it is the time to finalize your programs, set your goals, determine your committees and get everything in place to hit the ground running in April. It is time to familiarize yourself with the requirements of our Order and your state and your local government as they relate to the proper and compliant operations of your Lodge. It is time to review and enhance your leadership skills, because the success of your programs, your Lodge and our Order will greatly depend on your abilities to lead and involve your membership in the many tasks at hand.

Thank you one and all for your dedicated efforts during 2008-2009 and best wishes to the Officers, Members and Lodges for the 2009-2010 Lodge year.

Paul D. Hesel
Grand Exalted Ruler

Veterans' Message:

In 1948, the Elks of California donated 25,000 hides to our Order for the benefit of Veterans. This was the beginning of the Elks National Veterans Leather Program.

Today, Elks in twenty states participate in this program. Last year, over 15,000 hides were collected, prepared and shipped to tanneries for processing. The finished hides become craft kits, fingerless gloves for wheelchair bound Veterans, or craft leather for Veterans hospital therapy and recreational programs.

In 2001, the Elks began a partnership with Help Hospitalized Veterans. In 2008, this non-profit organization produced 40,000 craft kits for Veterans in hospitals from leather we supplied, at no additional cost to the Elks. The kits come in various styles and assemble with relative ease into moccasins, pouches, handbags and wallets.

To those hospitals with leatherworking equipment, the Elks supplied over 6,000 square feet of leather in 2008. Skilled Veterans turn this raw material into various items, some approaching the level of art. The National Creative Arts Festival, sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs, exhibits many items created from leather.

Our National Leather Program Chairman, Dennis McAleese (Mountain Home, AR Lodge No. 1714), last year distributed nearly 3,000 pairs of fingerless gloves for use by wheelchair bound Veterans. These are made of high quality leather, embossed with the Elks logo, and greatly prized by their owners. Elks Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Representatives order the gloves to distribute at the facilities they serve, and at no cost. Brother McAleese also travels to events sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs and distributes the gloves personally to Veterans in wheelchairs.

Under his able leadership, the Leather Program is growing every year. For information on participating in this program, contact Dennis McAleese. Brochures about the program are available, at no cost, from our office in Chicago.

If you already collect hides, please do not ship them to a tannery before consulting with Chairman McAleese. There have been changes in the tanneries we employ, and Dennis is the one to consult before shipping. Dennis is also the expert on collecting and preparing the hides, so do not hesitate to contact him for advice: Dennis McAleese, Chairman, Elks National Veterans Leather Program, 384 County Road 852, Elizabeth, AR 72531-9603, 870-488-5786, E-mail: kdmc@mtnhome.com

Robert M. Hennings,
Commission Director

March 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	Monthly Dinner 5:30PM 2	Trustee's Meeting 7:00PM 3	Regular Meeting 7:30PM 4	BINGO 5	Karaoke 8:00PM 6	7
Sunday Breakfast 8	9	PER Assoc Meeting 6:30PM House Comm 7:00PM 10	11	BINGO 12	13	14
Sunday Breakfast 15	16	Trustee's Meeting 7:00PM Happy St. Patrick's Day 17	Regular Meeting 7:30PM 18	BINGO 19	20 Newsletter Deadline	Pittsfield Installation Meeting 6:30PM 21
Sunday Breakfast 22	Westfield Installation Dinner 6:00PM 23	Springfield Installation Dinner 6:30PM 24	25	BINGO 26	Ludlow Installation Meeting 6:30PM 27	28

Breakfast 29 W Springfield Installation Meeting 1:00PM	30	31				
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April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Regular Meeting 7:30PM 1	BINGO 2	Karaoke 8:00PM 3	Adams Installation Meeting 6:00PM 4
Sunday 5 Breakfast No Adams Installation Meeting 1:00PM	Monthly 6 Dinner 5:30PM	PER Assoc 7 Meeting 6:30 House Comm 7:00PM Holyoke Dinner 6:30	8	BINGO 9	10	11 Northampton Installation Meeting 6:30PM
Easter 12 No Sunday Breakfast	Chicopee 13 Installation Dinner 6:30PM	Trustee's 14 Meeting 7:00PM	Regular 15 Meeting 7:30PM	BINGO 16	17 Newsletter Deadline	18
Sunday 19 Breakfast	20	21	22	BINGO 23	24	25
Sunday 26 Breakfast	27	28	29	BINGO 30		

