



**JOHN MIJAL  
EXALTED RULER**

As we walk through our new year together with promising thoughts and adventures, I see the utmost of happiness down at the lodge when speaking with all of you of your compliments and joyous ideas. You are what sets yourself aside when it comes to making people feel at home and welcome. All of you make me so proud to be an Elk.

As they say, April showers bring May flowers. It has been interesting to see through the past few years that everything that has been cultivated is now being harvested, and with that my sincere appreciation to my fellow officers, for their tasks will not go unnoticed. We have just set up our board of directors and committees and set precedence on our direction for the year. A lot of great discussions happening about the year ahead and also not to forget the start of the planning of our 125<sup>th</sup> year anniversary and celebration. As you may or may not know, the Wausau Elks Lodge #248 was chartered on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, 1892 and we have all heard the stories about the christening of the lodge with a weeklong celebration of great food, dancing and comradery. Not to mention the libations which were very prevalent! Great fun was had by all. Well, this year will be the celebration to honor what our great lodge has accomplished through the years and to those who have served to establish such a wonderful organization. Talks are starting on committees being formed for planning and if you have any ideas or want to be part of such a great historic moment for our lodge, now is the time to step forward and help plan. Our community will become involved and I hope you will also. There is great history here at our lodge and I would like to ask those of you who have stories of days gone by to step forward and share those stories with us so we can put a nostalgic feel in place for our celebration.

I am very excited about the New Year and ready to get going on some wonderful plans this year. As you know, last month I asked for your help in sharing our message with those around you about who the Wausau Elks are. Are you holding up your end of the bargain? Because if you are, you will notice the smiles, laughter and kindness that is generated around you. A very wise man once told me, the intensions you put out there into the universe; you will get back 10 fold. I see it and hear it in this lodge every day and its very heart warming. I am looking forward to talking to each and every one of you soon, so until then, God bless.

**Exalted Ruler**

## NEWS FROM THE **LODGE SECRETARY**

The more things change, the more they stay the same. A new Elk's Year has started, but my request remains the same: please pay your lodge dues. Thank you to all who have already paid your dues. That income stream has allowed us to nearly cut in half what we owe on our line of credit. However, at the moment, around 170 members have not paid their dues, but our state and Grand Lodge assessments must be paid. At \$22 per member, that amounts to \$3740 coming from our funds, and that is money we cannot afford. Several members have indicated they did not receive dues statements. At this point, we have mailed statements to all who have indicated they needed one. The question has arisen whether those who did not receive statements are still eligible for the free Saturday drink offer, and the answer is absolutely, providing the dues arrive in a timely fashion. We have kept track of all who did not receive a statement. Our last lodge year went fairly well. We finished the year with 661 members, having started with 667. For this year, we have 7 candidates for initiation and 1 requested transfer. Hopefully we will see the lodge grow this year for the first time in recent memory.

Hope to see you at the Lodge, *Ridge*

## IN MEMORIAM

*"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us, what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal."* Albert Pike

**Ralph Buechler,**

**Born February 27, 1918, Initiated May 28, 1946, Died March 25, 2017, A Member 71 Years**

~ In vain we call, they have passed into the light which is beyond the valley of the shadow of death ~

