



**JOHN MIJAL
EXALTED RULER**

Greetings everyone,

Yes it's true, fall is here. With that, all of our fall activities are coming together. Our Fall Conference was probably one of the best conferences our First Lady and I had ever attended. The seminars were spectacular along with a great banquet on Saturday night was a time to admire. One of the best times to get to meet those from other Lodges is definitely at the conferences.

As you may or may not know, fall is one of our busiest seasons with the Lodge and if you have not been around for the fall season at the Lodge, you need to pop in and check out what we have in store for you. Friday nights usually get ramped up with some of our entertainment in the lobby with concerto piano to chorus festival singers that will entertain and touch your heart.

Some of the events you need to take note on is our 125yr Anniversary Celebration taking place on Oct. 12 thru the 15th. Check the bulletin for details. I want to see you there. We are also looking forward to Old Timers night coming on the 10th of October. Also you will be seeing our Good Fellowship kicking into full gear and we are also taking those donations that help fund this great cause by giving gifts to children who may not ever see Christmas. If you would like to be part of this event just call or stop by and get more information about Good Fellowship. Ray and Lori would love to hear from you.

Once again I would like to say thank you to all of our members who make the Wausau Elks who they are today. I have had many of our new members come forward and participate in some of the events we have held and they all say that they wish they had done this sooner. (They finally found out the great things that we do and how wonderful it makes feel). This is truly Elkdom at its finest. Thank you to all who have helped this summer and we look forward to being with you in the future. Till then, I hope to see you at the lodge this fall.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Mijal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Exalted Ruler

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks The Beginning of the BPOE

In New York City, a small group of actors and entertainers, wishing to continue their social gatherings, when New York's laws prevented the opening of public establishments, began to meet regularly as the "Jolly Corks," a name derived from the group's organizer. While the meetings were held with regularity, apparently no form nor substance resulted, except for the adoption of a toast to members of the group not in attendance. Shortly before Christmas in 1867, only a few months after the fellows began to meet, one of their members died, leaving his wife and children destitute.

This event gave rise to the notion that, in addition to good fellowship, the Jolly Corks needed a more noble purpose in order to endure, and serving not only their own in need, but others as well. Two months later, on February 16, 1868, with a statement of serious purpose, an impressive set of rituals, a symbol of strength and majesty and such other elaborate trappings that might be expected of a group of actors and musicians, the new fraternal order was launched.

Since its founding on February 16, 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) has been recognized by the noble creature that is the symbol of the Order. The elk is a peaceful animal, but will rise in defense of its own in the face of a threat. The majestic creature is fleet of foot and keen of perception. The elk is a distinctively American, patriotic and family oriented subscribing to the cardinal principles of Elkdom, "Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity."