



JOHN MIJAL  
EXALTED RULER

Happy New Year!!

As we look forward to a new day when we arise for our daily venture, it has now become upon us to give thanks for all of the wonderful blessings that we have had this past year, and place in our sights as we arise on to the New Year ahead of us, the fidelity and brotherhood that made us who we are and why we do what we do. As we contributed to our communities with Good Fellowship this past December, I was reminded with 2017 now behind us, to let us not forget all of you who have brought us to this moment in Elkdom, for we pass this way but once. For those of you who had participated with Good Fellowship, especially the newbie's, there is something about the magic of Christmas that we have heard about since we were kids and that was such things as presents under the tree, or cookies left behind that were almost eaten but not quite gone and the milk glass empty. Do you remember? What I seen in the magic of Christmas this year through Elkdom was the comments and stories left behind when everyone came back from delivering, about just how much our group of youngsters were so surprised and lit up with joy when Santa arrived. It was your stories and that look on your face that tells me a bit about the magic of Christmas. All of you made this a special day. Thank you.

Now, moving into 2018, we have much to prepare for this year with State Presidents night coming in February along with the Mid-Winter Conference. State Presidents night is also awards night and all are welcome for dinner and banquet. Contact Amanda for more info and reservations.

How are your New-Year's resolutions coming? Our resolution as a club, and I can't speak for everyone, could be and should be, for us to ask each and every one we know if they would like to become an Elk. You're never going to know unless you ask, so help me in ringing in the New Year with increasing our membership to new levels of growth by simply asking your friend or neighbor or sibling for that matter. Our momentum with our membership is climbing and is moving into the right direction with 26 new members this year and growing. I would like to see us grow farther, but only with your help will we make this happen. Will you help me along this New Year? I'm hoping so.

As I have always stated in the past, I look forward to seeing you at the lodge and hopefully we have a moment to reminisce of days gone by and chat of new and promising futures ahead. Stay tuned to the bulletin for some great new activities coming soon.

God Speed,

Exalted Ruler

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## NEWS FROM THE LODGE SECRETARY

January 2018

I started out writing this paragraph by entitling it January, 2017. I will bet that will not be the last time I do that.

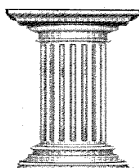
Here's hoping your holidays went well. We had 5 children, 5 spouses, 5 grandchildren and Sue and I for Christmas. Yup, 17. And not just for dinner, they STAYED with us. I heard they were going to send a film crew from Hollywood to do a remake of Christmas vacation but I said they could do it only if Chevy Chase made an appearance. How did the line go in the movie? "It's the holidays and we're all miserable."

In any event, here we are, time for our January membership report. Grand Lodge noted that the order showed a gain of 3.1% at mid-year. On the flip side, this may not be an accurate number because the order has a 9.8% delinquency rate. Our membership has risen as well, to 678 as of today. We presently have 10 awaiting initiation, which will take place on January 18. In addition, we will ballot on 3 candidates on January 4, making our total awaiting initiation 13. But we have a down side as well because of 38 members with dues outstanding. While this is not good, the 38 represent 5.6% of the membership, far below the 9.8% seen by Grand Lodge. All in all. The year has potential. Keep those dues coming.

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



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

