

Greetings,

I hope that we are all feeling that we are on our downhill swing with the winter. Days are getting longer and hopefully our temperatures will be climbing toward a positive aspect. We still have much to look forward to and I'm seeing great things ahead for our new year. As you know our Mid-Winter conference is being held the first weekend in February. Our conferences, which are held in Appleton's Paper Valley Hotel, are open to every Elk Member throughout the state. If you have not been to any of the conferences, you need to see and I promote that every member of ours has a chance to visit this wonderful experience. These conferences are all about setting agendas for the upcoming year and near future with committee's getting together and talking about their new-found ideas of making Elkdom better for all. You can attend these meetings also. Most of all, the comradery and fellowship which follows in the state hospitality room is free for all members. Stories, memories and most of all a great time is experienced by all who participate. We all would love to have you there.

Moving on, we have a busy couple of months coming, and with that starts our State Hoop Shoot finals which will be in accordance with our State Presidents banquet and visit on Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Preparations are under way and the agenda is ready and raring to go. Along with State President Night is our awards ceremony for those who have gone above and beyond. We hope you can attend. Youth awards dinner is also coming quick so stay tuned for further updates and come support our local youth for their achievements. One final note for the month I would like to say for those who are still delinquent on their dues, the Board of Directors will be making one last and final call for those who are not current on their dues for the year. Please, for those of you on the fence about your membership, please remember what great things are accomplished for those of you who pay and help support this wonderful organization of ours to help move our programs forward for our youth, veterans, community and those who need us most. It is you who matters and it is we the members who make that possible.

As always, Fraternally yours,



Exalted Ruler



JOHN MIJAL  
EXALTED RULER

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## NEWS FROM THE LODGE SECRETARY

January was a busy month and February promises to be so as well. Before going into details, if you are going out of town for a period of time and you wish the bulletin to follow, please let us know your address. Probably more important at this time of year, please let us know when you return. I try to keep track of return dates, but I have to admit that I miss some, so it is never a bad idea to call the office when you return to let us know you are back.

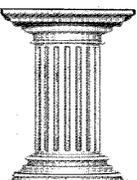
February brings crunch time in terms of membership. We must think about dropping members who have not paid their dues for this lodge year. New this year, Grand Lodge will send out reminder notices starting around January 22. As a local Lodge, we will send final notices in early February. We have had a good year in terms of attracting new members, and a terrific year in reinstatements with 7 to date. However, with 38 delinquent members we could still see a net membership decline.

Finally, we also had a good year in terms of scholarship applications for the Most Valuable Student program. 59 local youth submitted applications, making a big job for our scholarship committee. We selected our 3 boys and 3 girls and submitted them to the state. Best wishes to them all as they continue in the competition.

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 ~

