

Greetings,

Summer is on the way!

I swear summer will arrive soon. In the mean time we have a lot of great things to participate in at Elks. Lodge meetings the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, trivia every other Wednesday night, open bowling (\$5 bowl all you want), Stimulating conversations and community support. And don't miss out on our Elks State Convention May 4th to the 6th in Appleton and the Paper Valley Hotel. And a award winning Mother's Day Brunch, and so much more, check your calendar.



DALE KRENZ
EXALTED RULER



With great things in the works, I introduce our New Executive Chef Brian Pekah.

My name is Brian Pekah. I was born and raised on the Comanche Reservation in Southern Oklahoma. From a very young age I was fascinated with cooking.

As young as four years old I would prefer watching Southern Chef Justin Wilson on Saturday morning verses cartoons. I started working in restaurants at the age of thirteen dishwashing/light food prep. At fifteen I started formal Culinary training at my local Vo-Tech. Upon graduating high school I worked at the Southern Hills Marriott in Tulsa OK and Southern Hills Country Club (Chefs

Assistant; PGA Championship 1994) where I cooked for Two American Presidents and every golfer who qualified for the PGA Championship that year. At age 19 I decided to pursue my college degree in Culinary Arts (A.A.S.) and then went on to pursue my Bachelors Degree in Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management from New Mexico State University where I graduated in 2001.

I worked most of my career with Troon Golf. A management company that specializes in Luxury Golf/Country Clubs Internationally. While with Troon I worked and opened several Country Clubs in their network (in Idaho, Arizona, Florida, and North Carolina). This path eventually led me to become the Executive Chef at the Wausau Country Club. Four years ago I left Troon and worked as the Kitchen Manager at Texas Roadhouse (the busiest restaurant in town). While here in Wausau I met my wife Amanda and decided to marry and settle down. We decided that Wausau would be a great community to raise our two children Madison and Justin. I love this community and look forward to the opportunity the Elks Lodge has provided. I would love to meet each and every member here at the lodge, so feel free to stop by and visit.

Be sure to stop in and give Brian's offering a try!

Exalted Ruler

NEWS FROM THE **LODGE SECRETARY**

As you know, the new Lodge year is off and running. The new officer corps, led by ER Dale Krenz, has already instituted a number of new events to attract participation in the Lodge. It is more important than ever to pay attention to the bulletin to keep up with all the new activities taking place. For example, we will conduct our next initiation on Saturday, April 28 rather than holding it in conjunction with a Lodge meeting. We have 11 eligible, and our last Saturday initiation worked very well.

The Lodge has taken a huge step forward with the hiring of Brian Pekah as our executive chef. Brian brings with him experience and education. He has degrees in culinary arts and restaurant management. In addition, Brian has a license to teach culinary arts so we can actually be a teaching site for schools who offer a culinary arts degree. With Brian's talent and background, we could easily become one of the best restaurants in the area.

In terms of a membership report, when the dues invoices went out we received a number of requests for dimits. After the dust settled, we now have 657 members. As noted above, we have 11 presently eligible for initiation with a vote on 3 more scheduled for our meeting of April 19. Thus we have a potential of having 671 members after April 28, our highest membership in some time. We have received dues payments regularly, but we still have 161 members who have not sent in dues. If you have not yet sent in your dues, please do so as soon as possible. This has the makings of a terrific year.

Hope to see you at the Lodge, *Ridge*