

Greetings,

I am taking a deep breath, and trying to unwind after a busy holiday season, reflecting on our past year and planning for our year ahead. Remembering the Elks national is the 3rd largest charity in the U.S., nationally we averaged \$2,000,000 per day! Our charity is not only in dollars but in the personal help we give to our communities, and those in need and many times it is the personal touch that means more than the dollars.

The Elks is not only about charity, Debby and I have meet a lot of great people, and made many new friends, and ate way to many mouth watering meals. There is always something fun going on, and someone to spend time with. With the help of a lot of wonderful people we have done a lot of work, but also have had a lot of fun.

I feel I speak for our Brotherhood, in that the Elks has become a second family. As in all families there are the ups and downs, but when in need we all rally around each other in support.

Debby and I are looking forward to a wonderful New Year!



DALE KRENZ
EXALTED RULER

Exalted Ruler

NEWS FROM THE **LODGE SECRETARY**

While the calendar year 2018 has ended, the Lodge year for 2018-19 has not. In fact, it will not close until March 31, 2019. That does not mean we have not started to gear up for the close of our year. We measure the success of the year in several different ways, one being membership. As the old saying goes, I have good news and bad news. Our membership stands at 675, an increase of 17 since April 1 or a 2.6% rate of growth. This compares to a rate of 3.6% nationwide. In addition, we have 15 candidates eligible for initiation on January 17. Unfortunately, this has to be balanced against the fact that we still have 57 members who have not paid dues this year, or 8.4% of the current membership. Nationwide, the Elks report a delinquency rate of 9.9%. We plan to contact all those who remain delinquent in dues payments. If you are one of those who has not paid dues for this year and you are thinking about leaving the Lodge, we would certainly like to know why you have made this decision.

Ridge

Good Fellowship News

Your response to our letter requesting donations and family captains has been wonderful. We also had donations of furniture and appliances which we delivered to five different families. We ended up with 30 families and 101 children. If you haven't sent in your donation yet please do so soon so we can close out this year's program.

Next year because of your generous donations, we may be able to serve a few more children. We had some very generous donations this year from members, non members and two community organizations.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the program, the 30 family captains, the members that worked the collection table at the Lodge, the seven Santa's and their drivers, Orville Dabler who donated the hand-made pens we sold, Brent Dabler & AAA Wisconsin for the trip tickets for the Santa's and Family Captains, Kris Kysely and the Wausau Education Association for donating turkeys for our families, Jerry Petrowski for securing potatoes for our families and anyone else who helped in any way.

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PLEASE Carry and use your door card especially during this busy season.

We are a private club so our building is available only to our members. All members receive one key card and you can buy additional cards for only \$6.00. **Please carry and use your cards.** If you have lost your card 6284 or it no longer works, please contact the Secretary.