

Greetings,

It is my great honor to serve as incoming Exalted Ruler of Wausau Lodge #248. I cannot express how grateful I am for this opportunity, and I look forward to working alongside and serving all of you.

I would like to thank our outgoing Exalted Ruler, PER Dale Krenz, for his hard work and perseverance over the past year. Additionally, I would like to thank outgoing officers Leading Knight Marcelo Coscio, 1 Year Trustee Scott Ziebell, Chaplain Diane Echols, and Esquire PER Kevin McCarthy. I would also like to thank Executive Chef Brian Pekah, Events Coordinator Amanda Pekah, and the rest of our hard working staff, and all of our members who have given their time and dedication to our Lodge. I would also like to thank PER Bob Henning for giving me the honor of installing me as incoming ER, and First Lady and 4 Year Trustee Kristin Doll for her love, support and encouragement.

I would also like to congratulate our Officer of the Year, Bruce Conard, Elk of the Year, Rick Gesicki, and Couple of the Year, Scott and Deb Walhart for all they have done for our Lodge. Your hard work and dedication is truly appreciated.

We have an exciting year to look forward to. We have many projects, good deeds, and fraternal opportunities this upcoming year, but we also face many challenges. In order to overcome these challenges, we need to work together as the brothers and sisters in Elkdom that we are. We need to focus on our common goal of moving the Lodge forward and fostering an atmosphere of fraternity. We cannot allow past difficulties or personal grudges to dissuade us. We need to be involved in our Lodge and actively support it if we want it to survive and continue to be a force of good in our community.

I would like to begin my year as ER by presenting a challenge to all of you. I challenge you to involve yourself more in our Lodge. Our Lodge currently has 675 members, but we cannot survive and thrive simply on membership dues. We need membership participation, not only for financial solvency, but to fulfill our mission as an Order. I challenge you to think back to when you first filled out a membership application and checked your volunteer interests on the back, and then follow through with it. I challenge you to attend a Lodge function that you have never been to, and to invite members and friends to join you. I challenge you to come to the Lodge for a fish fry and introduce yourself to members you do not know, and to reach out to and support new members in the spirit of good fellowship and fraternity.

I challenge you to embrace and share in the spirit of Elkdom.

Fraternally Yours,

Adam Doede Exalted Ruler



ADAM DOEDE
EXALTED RULER

NEWS FROM THE LODGE SECRETARY

While on vacation (I am in fact writing this while in Phoenix), I ran across a fascinating article on the present state of community service organizations. It notes how the term “community service” has changed over the past 40 years. What used to be an honorable thing to be part of has become something one gets sentenced to in court. The author goes on to note that, while the global impact of service organizations is still impressive, the graying of the traditional community service club is obvious. “It is not a symptom of any one club, or any one community, it is an international phenomenon.” The article notes how service clubs often provide things to the community that local budgets simply cannot afford. Having a specific goal helps a service club focus its efforts. This year for the Wausau Elks, it seems a major goal will be survival. As the dues for the coming year have started coming in, Chuck and I often try to predict our membership numbers. While we have gained about 30 members this year, it appears we will lose 50. How will 2019-20 go? Unfortunately, dues alone will not sustain the Lodge. Thanks to a number of factors – such as large maintenance expenditures – we ended the year a long way in the red. In spite of Herculean efforts on the part of ER Dale Krenz and others to attract members to the Lodge, we continue to lose money. If what I have heard is true, that we have members actively recruiting others to stay away, that certainly did not help. The article noted above outlines how one club revived itself. The San Clemente Rotary reduced its meetings from one per week to twice per month. The meetings take place around the bar, at happy hour, and members include a wide age range. Interestingly, meeting attendance has risen dramatically. The celebrated WWII German General Erwin Rommel once referred to George Patton as a “magnificent anachronism.” Is that what the Elks have become? We will find out soon.

Ridge

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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 or it no longer works, please contact the Secretary.