

Greetings,

Kristin and I are fortunate to live in a beautiful and historic house in Wausau. Our house is 124 years old, and was originally occupied by Judge Henry Miller, who was a person of importance in Wausau's early days. You can feel the history in our house, and it makes me smile every day knowing that a great man lived there, and that his legacy continues to live on in our thriving community that he helped shape. This is the same feeling that I get at the Lodge. When I look at the Absent Members boards in the ballroom, and at the Past Exalted Rulers' portraits in the ballroom's lobby, I can feel the history there. All of the great men and women who have been members of our Lodge and who have shaped not only our organization, but our entire community, and whose legacy continues to live on in the good works that we do. Sadly, our Absent Members roster has gained another name, and there will be one more PER portrait whose frame is black. Our Brother, PER Leo Benaszkeski has passed away. Leo was a member for 53 years. He will be very missed, but like our other brothers and sisters who have gone before him, his legacy lives on. It falls on each of us to continue this legacy. And continuing the legacy takes work. We cannot simply become complacent and content with our past works; we must continually be adding to them. We must keep the Lodge active and relevant in our community. We must support and patronize our Lodge and participate in its events. We must share the spirit of Elkdom with others and encourage them to join us. We must do all of these things or our great legacy will end with us. Each of us must decide what mark we want to leave on the Lodge. Each of us must decide what we will pass on to our successors. Each of us must decide how we will be remembered when our time here is done. Choose wisely. Continue the legacy.

Fraternally Yours,

Adam Doede Exalted Ruler



ADAM DOEDE
EXALTED RULER

NEWS FROM THE **LODGE SECRETARY**

Over the past two months I have commented about the need for any organization to have a clear focus, to understand what we are about. In my view, this would help in our recruitment of new members. As Elks, we say we focus on youth. Just what does that mean? For example, the Shriners have their hospitals, amazing places of healing where severe orthopedic cases are dealt with expertly at no charge. During my time in Two Rivers, one of our teachers had twins, a boy and a girl. The girl was born perfectly healthy, the boy not so. He was unable to walk until he was old enough to undergo surgery at a Shriner's hospital. Amazingly, the surgeries (there were multiple) worked and now he walks all over town. Do we have anything comparable? You bet, Camp Wawbeek, an amazing place where severely handicapped children are dealt with expertly at no charge. During my time as a high school principal in Two Rivers, we sent any number of severely handicapped children – mentally as well as physically - to Camp Wawbeek. Each time the results went beyond our expectations. One of our own, Ray Dabler – who was recently given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Wisconsin Easter Seals for his work with the camp – has been instrumental in making the camp what it is today. So the next time someone asks you what the Elks are about, tell them there is a place you'd like to tell them about. By the way, June 22 is Elk's day at the camp.

Ridge