

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXALTED RULER

We are a month into our new Lodge year and I am happy to report a positive start! We have slowly (and safely) started to resume some of the activities our members have come to expect, such as our Friday night dinner service and food sales from Charlie's Hideaway in our Member's Lounge. As we ramp up these activities, we must remember to keep an eye on the safety of our members and be flexible with potential changes that may need to happen during the (hopefully!) waning stages of the Covid pandemic.

To that note, I'd like to reinforce the need of members to be stay flexible as we communicate these potential changes. We have several communication champions that work tirelessly for our Lodge and I would love to thank: PER Chuck Berens for managing this newsletter on a monthly basis, Dennis Kruzan for operating our website needs, Beth Gorski for keeping up with the text messaging service, and Trustee Darcey Westcott for her amazing social media skills! As situations change, please keep an eye on these resources as the Board manages operations to help everyone stay safe and keep our events in order.

We are aware that not all members have access to all of these resources and will make a concerted effort to maintain open lines of communication whenever possible. If any members would like to expand into Social Media usage or text messaging, I'd be happy to sit with anyone to chat about it or do some tutorials. I stress this as we want to ensure clear and open communications with our members knowing things can change on a dime (thank you once every 100 year historic event).

On a positive note, we have a number of important events upcoming including: the Virtual State Convention on May 1st (with Luau party afterwards), our first Initiation meeting of this Lodge year on May 6th, Camp Wawbeek spring clean up day on May 8th, and the Kick Off for our ENF fundraising event on May 22nd. We are looking forward to these upcoming events to help keep us going in the right direction! Thank you to everyone that has volunteered their time, know-how, and advice to get our Lodge year running smoothly.

See you at the Lodge! Jonathan Fisher Exalted Ruler



JONATHAN FISHER
EXALTED RULER

Please keep in mind that the Elks have a beautiful Lodge of Sorrows Memorial Service that the Officers are always willing to perform as part of any member's funeral services. If you wish to include the Lodge of Sorrows in services for your family's Elk member, contact the Lodge Office at 715.845.5602 or Rick Gesicki at rgesicki@yahoo.com to make the request.

Learn about and Support the ENF!

Come join us for Rib Night on Saturday, May 22nd serving 5-7 p.m. in the members lounge. Featuring the meat smoking Masters: Karl Hanke, Mike Zahrt, & Todd Kostuck who will be serving up BBQ baby back pork ribs. Cost is \$14 half rack and \$25 for a full rack of ribs. Sides and dessert included. Seriously, some good eatin', 'gonna be happening at the lodge that night.

Reservations are a must as supply will be limited. Please text or call Karl at 715-573-2461 to secure some room on the BBQ! Come for the ribs and stay for our meat raffle which will start at 7:00 p.m. - (details to follow - watch for flyers around the Lodge). All proceeds go to benefit ENF.

NEWS FROM THE LODGE SECRETARY

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. Unfortunately, these lines are not original, but they describe our situation pretty well. Let's start with the worst of times. Now that we have started a new year, we have solid numbers to explain last year. We have 533 members, a decrease of 56 compared to March, 2020. Sadly, 14 deaths contributed to this decrease. Now let's start moving towards the best of times scenario. As you know, dues invoices were mailed in February, and the return has been o.k. As I write this article, we have 98 who have not paid dues for 21-22, which puts us well ahead of last year, but which also means that the Lodge had to pay \$2450 to Grand Lodge from Lodge funds to cover our assessment for these members. Not paying dues on time is not without its consequences. Keeping with the trend towards best of times, we have 27 candidates eligible for initiation coming up on May 6. If you are a sponsor of one of these candidates, please do all you can to see that he/she attends. Finally, as you know, starting during the administration of ER Adam Doede, and continuing under ER Bruce Conard, major changes were made to our food service operation. The results, you ask? Our mortgage is now 0! Our line of credit is at \$55,000! As we return to more normal operations, we should continue to see our indebtedness decline. *Ridge*

ON THE LODGE FLOOR

Lodge Meetings in May 6 at 6:45 w/Initiation & 20th at 7:00 pm. Board, 13th at 6:30 PM

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

Darrin Howard - 3 Years Born April 5, 1965 Initiated November 1 2018 Died March 19, 2021	Charles Lewitzke - 22 Years Born July 2, 1929 Initiated January 21, 1999 Died April 8, 2021	Leonard Englert - 44 Years Born January 25, 1926 Initiated June 1, 1978 Died April 13, 2021	Terrance Piehl - 36 Years Born February 9, 1949 Initiated March 19, 1977 Died April 15, 2021
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In vain we call, they have passed into the light which is beyond the valley of the shadow of death

