



ECHOES

From the Watchung Hills, Elks Lodge 885



Exalted Ruler's Message

- Danny Larsen, PER



So here we are - summer is in full swing and we are wondering where and when to plan a vacation. Always so much to do and so little time – Wildwood – then San Antonio... it all seems to come so quickly. The trick is to enjoy these moments and make the most of the accomplishments that we all share, such as

Comedy Night, the Picnic for the Homeless Vets, The Cub Scout Pack 182 Picnic and Awards Day,

The Opening of our Pool, The NJSEA Parade in Wildwood, our Flag Day Celebration and 150 Year Proclamation, the Grabko Fund Raiser Dinner, Our Annual Camp Moore Picnic, Lyons Menlo Park Veterans Picnic's etc.

- Please join me in welcoming Mr. Michael Ryder as our New Committee Chairman for Public Relations and Marketing! Mike brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to this very important position! I see many new and exciting opportunities for the Lodge to prosper and grow and develop an improved relationship with our Community.

- The Lodge and Grounds are looking sharp thanks to many unseen hands helping to keep the place in shape.

- The Sewer connection process is well underway and moving along as expected, with initial stages nearing completion and leading to phase II of the process.

In closing, I would like to thank each and every member -- this is our Lodge, and every single person should feel responsible and involved with Lodge activities and be full of pride at the direction and accomplishments of our Lodge. It is an interesting mix of people and ideas and I can't help but think how our diversity makes us all more complete and capable of even greater achievements!

Things we have yet to imagine, yet to embrace and yet to overcome for we are Stronger Together.

Officers

Exalted Ruler	Danny Larsen, PER
Esteemed Leading Knight	Ben Garnecki
Esteemed Loyal Knight	Dave Dante
Esteemed Lecturing Knight	Lisa Carracino
Secretary	Paul Lowell, Sr., PER
Treasurer	Donna Lowell, PER
Esquire	(vacant)
Chaplain	Lynn Spurrier
Inner Guard	Walter (Buddy) Rehberger
Tiler	Joanne Rehberger
1 Year Trustee	Betty A. Volker, PDDGER
2 Year Trustee	Francis Bellew, PER
3 Year Trustee	Geno Bataille, Jr., PER
4 Year Trustee	Denise Heilman
5 Year Trustee	Stephanie Zitsch
Justice	(vacant)

Recent Boosters

June: Ed Otto

Watchung Hills Elks Lodge #885

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 Warren, NJ 07059
 908-668-9727
news@elkslodge885.org
membership@elkslodge885.org
www.elkslodge885.org

We've setup a new website that's smartphone and tablet-friendly. Come visit us at <https://www.elkslodge885.org>. News and events posted here as they happen... We've also got an online calendar there now as well. Don't wait for the bulletin!

Charities Committee

- Betty A. Volker, PDDGER



This year's annual Central District Committee picnic at Camp Moore is scheduled for July 22nd. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm. Anyone wishing to attend please contact me for information and directions. Our Lodge is responsible for macaroni and potato salads. This is a perfect time for anyone who has not been to Camp Moore to see it in action and to see the smiles on the faces of our Special Children.

The Miracle Run is scheduled for July 29, 2018 and the picnic will be held at Pompton Lakes Elks Lodge #1895, 15 Perrin Ave, Pompton Lakes, 973-620-0116. Raffle tickets for a Harley are on sale for \$20.00 each. Remember that all proceeds from this event go to Camp Moore.

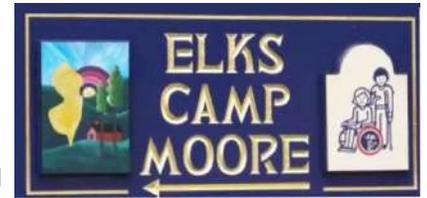
The New Jersey State Elks Special Children's Committee semi-annual fund raiser is the calendar raffle. The new calendars are out and run from July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. The cost is \$20.00 each. Please see me to purchase your calendar raffle.

The Somerset Children's Center has a new Physical Therapist, Michele Jones; her clients are very excited to have her on board. Art Therapy program with Dr. Emily Pike has begun. She inspires creativity while at the same time allowing one's thoughts and emotions to emerge.

On July 27th, Patriot tickets are available for FREE to anyone at the Center who would like to go watch the game, eat popcorn, hot dogs, and just have fun with the family! Follow us on facebook to keep up to date with events and activities.

Should you know of anyone who may benefit from our services, please have them reach out to them at 908-725-2366. (Submitted by Marc Steinberg, Chairman, Board of Directors, Somerset Children's Center.)

Have a great summer!



Upcoming Events

Thursday, July 5

7:00pm, Lodge Meetings (Officers)
8:00pm, Lodge Meetings (General)

Saturday, July 14

8:00am, Verizon FIOS install

Tuesday, July 17

7:00pm, BOD Meeting

Sunday, July 22

4:00pm, Camp Moore BBQ

Tuesday, July 24

7:30pm, PER Meeting

Thursday, August 2

7:00pm, Lodge Meetings (Officers)
8:00pm, Lodge Meetings (General)

Tuesday, August 21

7:00pm, BOD Meeting

Tuesday, August 28

7:30pm, PER Meeting

Saturday, September 15

10am, Elks Central Jersey District Flag Retirement Ceremony

Saturday, September 29

12pm, Annual Pig Roast

Happy Birthday to the following members!

July

7/1 Debbie Metner
7/3 Chris bellman
7/5 Linda Helmstetter
7/7 Adam Gioia
Anthony Metner
7/8 Janet Borkowski
7/9 Kim Frazier
Thomas Keller Jr.
7/11 Bill Lehman
7/14 Pat Guerra
Jeff Loeffler
7/15 Guy Treppiccione
7/18 William Sorensen
7/20 Kathleen Olesen
Amelia Przelomski
7/22 Duke Andersen
7/25 Anthony Hayeck
7/26 Pete Plesmid
John Volker PER
7/28 Paul Lowell Jr. PER
7/29 Joseph Bobko
7/30 Kenneth Burd

August

8/1 John Lee Williams
8/6 Gary Cernuto
Tina Engler
Glen Kusmick
Lillian Obszanski
8/7 Frank Klemser
8/9 Jim Kerr PER
Rose Roy
8/11 William Springer
8/12 Owen Smith
8/14 Kelly Lowell
8/15 Pia Grant PER
Rich Van Jaeckel
8/16 Rita DeFilippis
Rich Pasquarella
8/18 Tracy Fennimore
8/21 Rich Stites
8/22 Mike McNicholl
8/23 Patricia Liskowitz
8/24 Sinead Conlon"
8/27 Andy Case
Niro Garcia
8/28 Ben Garnecki
8/30 Mel Doremus



Membership Committee

- Paul Lowell, Sr., PER

Welcome our new members who were Initiated in May: Chris Bellman, Michelle D'Autorio. Bill Lehman, Elia Shehady and Margareta Warlick.

Sadly we remember Barbara Meller and J.D. "Mike" Killeya, PER who passed away in May, and Antonio Ciufu who passed away on Monday June 25th.

If you are registered on-line with www.elks.org, there is a new "Members Only" section recently added called "Membership Tool Kit." It is aimed at newer members but even for those who have been members for awhile; go on-line and check it out. There are some neat ideas on how to grow our lodge membership. In the 2017-2018 year, New Jersey was number one in the nation with a gain of over 800 new members being Initiated.

TOP GROWTH STATES

1 st Place	New Jersey	+891
2 nd Place	Arizona	+606
3 rd Place	California/Hawaii	+548
4 th	Missouri	+424
5 th	MD/DE/DC	+236
6 th	Connecticut	+206
7 th	Nevada	+131
8 th	Rhode Island	+130
9 th	New Hampshire	+104
10 th	Tennessee	+86
11 th	Maine	+68
12 th	Mississippi	+54
13 th	Idaho	+45
14 th	Utah	+43
15 th	Washington	+13

Help us to save some money! Opt-in to receiving the Echoes electronically! Visit <https://www.elkslodge885.org/sign-up>

Committee Chairs

Army of Hope	Danny Larsen, ER, PER
Americanism	(vacant)
Auditing	Kim DeVizio
Buildings and Grounds	David Dante
Charities	Betty A. Volker, PDDGER
Drug Awareness	Gene Bataille, Jr., PER
Elks memorial Day	David Dante
Elks National Foundation	Joanne Bataille
Government Relations	Paul Lowell, Sr., PER
Hoop Shoot	Fran Bellew, PER
Lodge Activities	(vacant)
Membership	Paul Lowell, Sr., PER
Parades	Danny Larsen, ER, PER
Public Relations	Mike Ryder
Ritual	Betty A. Volker, PDDGER
Scholarships	Fred Hayeck
Soccer Shoot	Fran Bellew, PER
Special Children	Betty A. Volker, PDDGER
Veterans Services	Fran Bellew, PER
Wildwood Convention	Danny Larsen, ER, PER
Youth Activities	Fran Bellew, PER
Youth Tournament	Fran Bellew, PER

Elks National Foundation Committee

- Joann Bataille

Last year I applied for and received \$9,500.00 in grants. These grants enabled us to partner with The Food Bank Network of Somerset County to help fight childhood hunger. We also contributed \$7,500.00 worth of food, shoes, and eyeglasses for children in our community. In June, with the help from a \$2,000.00 grant, we were able to provide a picnic for the homeless Veterans at Lyons. They were very grateful and asked when we could come back!

July starts a new year for grant applications and I intend to apply for all of them. We will continue our partnership with the Food Bank and our support for our Veterans. In addition, I'm looking for additional projects that will help our community. Happy Summer!

Veterans Services Committee

- Fran Bellew, PER



In mid June we hosted a picnic for the homeless veterans on the Lyons Hospital campus. We served approximately 100 men and women. They were very appreciative for our efforts. I would like to thank all elks and scouts who came out to help make it a success. I would also like to thank The Steamfitters Local Union for their food donation as well as Costcos Bakery department for their donation of a sheet cake.

How to get new members?
ASK THEM!



Governmental Relations Committee

- Paul Lowell, Sr., PER

On a whole the Elks are hurting as far as reporting all the good things we do. Elks Charity Manuals have been ordered and will be handed out to the various Committee Chairs as soon as they arrive. There are also blank forms in the drawer behind the bar below the stereo. Please fill out the form with the following information and leave in the Secretary Slot.

- District Meetings attended - date/place and how many attended with you.
- Lodge Committee Meetings conducted - date and how many attended with you.
- Fundraisers held -
 - Purpose
 - date/location
 - number of Elks/number of non-Elks
 - hours spent conducting and planning the event
 - Elk miles/non-Elks miles
 - non-cash and cash spent
 - Any time spent on phone calls/emails for your committee
 - Any time spent on creating/printing flyers for fundraising events (that would be eligible for government relations reporting)
 - Time spent selling raffle tickets/boosters, etc.
 - Non-cash contributions/cash contributions.

If you have any questions, please just ask and I'll help you out -- call me at 908-230-7303.



Treasurer

- Donna Lowell, PER



Please do not use the Lodge dumpsters for your personal or business use. These dumpsters are intended strictly for debris from the Elks Lodge or any of its programs.

The Grotto

- Mike Ryder

The Grotto has been a sore spot for the Watchung Hills Elks ever since the property was purchased in 1964. The ravages of time, lack of maintenance and vandalism have not been kind.

However in 2005, a "tri-party" lease agreement was signed between Warren Township, our Elks lodge and Somerset County, where it was agreed that in exchange for public access to the grotto, the County and Township would pay "rent" by allowing water to flow to the grotto from the upper pond (as originally designed in 1915) and make it functional and continue with annual maintenance. Nothing has happened since, and our Board of Directors has approved a plan towards holding town and county accountable. For more information, see the "Our Grotto Needs Help" blogpost on our website at <https://www.elkslodge885.org>.



Watchung Hills Elks Events - Were you there?



Officer of the Year 2017-2018
Esteemed Lecturing Knight David Dante



Esteemed Loyal Knight David Dante,
Melodie Doremus and Gene Bataille
cooking up a storm at the BBQ for
Homeless Vets



Mayor Victor Sordillo (R) presents ER Danny
Larsen (L) with an Elks 150th Anniversary
Proclamation



ER Danny Larsen (L) at the 150th Anniversary
in San Antonio TX



1st Year Trustee Betty Volker (R) at the 150th
Anniversary in San Antonio TX



Our Cub Scouts Pack 182 saluting in front of their Sherman
Tank parade float.



Our Cub Scouts Pack 182 in the Warren Township Memorial
Day Parade



Elks Lodge 885 represented at the NJSEA Wildwood Parade by
(L-R) Kim DeVizio, Pia Grant, David Dante, Danny Larsen, Betty
Volker, Stephanie Zitsch and Melodie Doremus.

Public Relations Committee

- Mike Ryder



Greetings - I'm the new guy that's now in charge of Public Relations for Lodge #885, and have been spending my time trying to absorb as much knowledge about this position from Betty Volker, Danny Larsen and everyone else I can get a hold of.

My wife and our two children live in Warren Township, where I spent most of my life growing up, where my parents still live and where I returned to after some time in California and also Basking Ridge.

And so here I am -- and ready and willing to do what I can to spread news about the Elks' good deeds and services. But I cannot do this alone, because I can't be at every event - in order to do this correctly, I need your help -- provide me with information about events as quickly as they happen. At a bare minimum, the name of the event, the time and date, names of members who are chairing the event, the event flyer and photographs. When you share photographs, please tell me the names of the people in them, along with the event name, time and date that the photo was taken. Taking and archiving photographs helps to preserve our memories but also to let our community know that we're active and involved.

I've learned that some of you have had to send your own articles in to the newspaper - I'd like to ask you to send your articles to me, so that we have a consistent writing and publishing style, and so that I can build relationships with our local newspaper journalists (Echoes-Sentinel, Courier-News, Renna Media) and related organizations (Warren Patch, TapInto Warren, etc.)

Some of the changes I hope to bring to Lodge 885 are already in practice. I have started a dedicated, modern website (www.elkslodge885.org), updated our Facebook page, created pages for us on Youtube, Instagram, Google+, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Tumblr and Twitter. You can see a list of all our social networking profiles from the new website.

These resources allow us to publish news about our lodge swiftly and widely - in addition to publishing articles in the local newspapers on a weekly or monthly basis, we are now able to publish stories almost immediately with social media. Visit our website and you'll see what I'm talking about -- there's no need to login there, and the stories posted there can be easily shared with your friends by email, Facebook, Twitter or any other tool you use.

In the future, we would like to save money by trimming away some of the monthly bulletin and rely more heavily on the Internet. There is a real cost to printing the bulletins both in time and money, and we would rather put those resources to work on other aspects of volunteering at the lodge. For example, instead of waiting for the calendar to be printed monthly, you can now visit a live calendar on our website (click on the "Events" menu). This is a practice that has been successfully adopted at other Elks Lodges.

Who knows what else the future may bring? Let me know what you think about this issue of the bulletin, our new website or any comments or suggestions you may have about Public Relations for our Elks lodge. You can email me at news@elkslodge885.org or by cellphone at 908-605-0305...

It takes a lot of time to create the bulletin - a few weeks of begging folks for news to print, a week or more to do the design and layout, a few more days to pass it around to officers and committee chairs to review the last draft, then a few more days to print, apply labels and drop off at the Newark postoffice. Finally, another week for the post office to get it in your mailbox.

Add that all up and it takes 3-4 weeks. This means you generally get the news at least 1 month old, and you miss the first week of events in the calendar because it arrives too late. What can we do to shorten this window?

By publishing non-stop and almost immediately to the Internet --> www.elkslodge885.org

You no longer have to wait until the monthly call for bulletin articles - you can share them with me and I'll publish them to the Internet in real-time.

Ideally, we can either completely eliminate the printed bulletin, or shrink it down to a single page with just the most basic information on it - ER's column, Boosters, Upcoming Events, etc. The rest will be found online.

Where did the list of boosters go?

The list of boosters is a long one - thank you to all who have contributed! But it consumes a lot of space on the bulletin, so from now on we will be highlighting only new boosters in the month of their donation - this serves as a special thank you to the new names, and helps us save money by keeping the page count low.

In search of... old pictures!

- Mike Ryder

Do you have any old Lodge 885 or Lodge 2252 bulletins lying around? Do you have any old pictures of either lodge "from the old days?" I'm working to maintain a pictorial history for our lodge. Please contact me if you've got anything I can borrow - I will scan it in, digitize it and return the originals to you. I can be reached at news@elkslodge885.org or 908-605-0305.



News from our Cub Scouts in Warren Township Pack 182

- Tricia Patricco, Pack 182 Public Relations

"Warren Pack 182 Cub Scouts & Families Enjoy Annual Pack Picnic" -- "Into each life some rain must fall", wrote Longfellow. Well, Cub Scouts in Warren have had more than their fair share at events this year. Our annual end of year Pack Picnic was no exception. On Sunday, our Pack's families and more than 40 Cub Scouts came out in spite of yet another cool rainy day to celebrate the accomplishments of the year. Scouts from each of the Seven Dens in the Pack were honored for their commitment to scouting as they received their advancements and many earned their Rank Badges for the year. Lions became Tigers, Tigers became Wolves, Wolves became Bears and Bears became Webelos. Oh My! We are exceptionally proud of these boys and their efforts. We gave many thanks to the Leaders, Parents and Volunteers that make it all possible. That also includes The Watchung Hills Elks Lodge #885 who sponsor us, and generously share their facilities with us too. Delicious food was shared, camaraderie and fun were had. The Kona Ice truck even paid us a visit! Our Den 9 Bears designed and built several games for the Cubs to play. These helped complete requirements toward earning their Grin and Bear it adventure.

In Pack 182 Summer means it's time for more fun. Our Pack enjoys activities throughout the year including a Fossil Dig in July and Hike at Jockey Hollow in early August, as well as other pop-up activities.

Cub Scout Pack 182 in Warren Township serves the local community and surrounding towns. To join Cub Scouts or find out more about Pack 182 visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Pack182WarrenNJ/> our website <http://warrenpack182.org> or by contacting us at membership@warrenpack182.org.



Elks Care - Elks Share

Watchung Hills Elks #885
1 Elks Trail
Warren, NJ 07059

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Address Service Requested

Watchung Hills Elks Lodge #885 is online!

Point your smart-phone's QR-Code reader application (freely available if you don't already have one) at these images to jump to our sites. Bookmark our website so you can check the Lodge calendar. "Like" our Facebook page so you can stay in touch with the daily goings-on.



<https://www.elkslodge885.org>



<https://www.facebook.com/elks885>

"So Long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective
Order of Elks will never forget them."