



*Benevolent & Protective  
Order of Elks  
HIGHTSTOWN  
LODGE #1955*



**January, 2012 NEWSLETTER**

Brothers and Sisters:

Happy New Year to all!! We are out of the gate and running with a very exciting slate of events for 2012!! We are actively promoting events and posting flyers on the website, [www.elks1955.org](http://www.elks1955.org), and you should all check it out regularly to get more details. Pat O'Brien and Roger Lippman are hard at work at making our website more interactive where you can purchase tickets for events ahead of time and pay online. What great news! Look for more info as this project moves along.

The Breakfast with Santa was a resounding success! All reports back from the attendees were positive and the event is growing every year. Thanks to all the volunteers for your hard work. The Comedy Night, on Saturday 1/21/2012, is quickly approaching and may be all sold out. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pat O'Brien asap at the lodge email address: [hightstownelks@yahoo.com](mailto:hightstownelks@yahoo.com) to get more information on table availability.

Paella Night follows, Saturday, 1/28/2012, but you need to make reservations with Maria – so email her: [mariamac26@comcast.net](mailto:mariamac26@comcast.net) to reserve your seat. This promises to be a yummy event right before Lent. There is a flyer on the website, so check it out and call Maria if you are interested.

A Wednesday Night Dinner is starting with John Sanchez and Stacey Frankel as the chefs. Each week will have a different theme and we look forward to this new event!

The Superbowl follows as well as Ladies Night of Beauty and Bowling at Brewsters. Again, check the website for details and more information will follow in January.

Friday Nights will continue to be open Lodge night with bartenders to serve you and Senseless Trivia Night will also be restarting, so be on the look out for that as well.

As always, remember this is your lodge, come and support all the events especially the ones where you don't have to cook! There is plenty of fun and fellowship to be had with all our members, so grab a friend and come on down.

Yours in Elkdom....  
Ken MacLean, Exalted Ruler



Ken MacLean—Exalted Ruler

**Officers for 2011-2012**

Exalted Ruler	Ken MacLean
Leading Knight	Donna Vogt
Loyal Knight	Anthony D'Abbraccio
Lecturing Knight	Jim Fidler
Esquire	Leo Brunetti, PER
Tiler	Beth Bowling
Inner Guard	Dave Oliva
Chaplain	Chris O'Brien
Secretary	Pat O'Brien
Treasurer	Bill Lawler
1 Year Trustee	Donna Brunetti
2 Year Trustee	Frank Hampton
3 Year Trustee	Bill Bowling, PER
4 Year Trustee	Bob O'Brien, PER
5 Year Trustee	Luella Scott, PER

**MEETING DATES**

**(see page 2 for specific meeting dates this month)**

Regular business meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 8pm (except in July, August & December).

Trustees meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month / Committee Night is the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday.

Come down, be involved in YOUR lodge.

## Committee Chairs for 2011-2012

**Audit & Accounting** John Burns

### Community Activities

Blood Drives Tom McGeachen  
Drug Awareness Wayne Varga  
Special Children Steve Drake

**ENF** Donna Brunetti

### House

Donna Vogt  
Accident Prevention Frank Hampton  
Bar Manager Maria MacLean  
Booking Manager Donna Vogt

### Lodge Activities

Jim Fidler  
Americanism Lisa Palmere  
Art Auction Donna Vogt  
Convention John Sanchez & Stacey Frankel  
Fish Fry Steve Drake & Bill Bowling, PER  
Flag Day Glenn VanWhy & Gerard DiGioia  
Government Relations Bill Lawler  
Nat'l Veterans' Service Luella Scott, PER  
Public Relations <OPEN>  
Parade Donna Vogt  
Elks Memorial Service Pat O'Brien  
Comedy Night Pat O'Brien  
Derby Day Rich Lonsdorf  
Golf Tournament Dave Chmielewski, PER  
Murder Mystery Evening Robin Drew  
Shuffleboard Tourney Bret Kardos  
Super Bowl Sunday Pat O'Brien  
Trivia Nights Bob Valluzzo  
Valentines Dance Patti Higgins  
Visiting <OPEN>  
Webmaster Rodger Lippman  
Newsletter Editor Bob O'Brien, PER

### Membership

Anthony D'Abbraccio  
Indoctrination Pat O'Brien  
Investigation Leo Brunetti, PER  
Recruitment <OPEN>  
Retention / Lapsation Pat O'Brien

**PER Association** Bob O'Brien, PER

### Youth Activities

Bob O'Brien, PER  
Boy Scouts Glenn VanWhy  
Hoop Shoot <OPEN>  
Scholarship Terry Pycior  
Soccer Shoot Frank Caravella & Jim Fidler

## January Meetings

*Tuesday, Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> - Regular Business Meeting*

Monday, Jan 9<sup>th</sup> - Special Children (Bordentown)  
*Tuesday, Jan 10<sup>th</sup> - Trustees Meeting*

*Tuesday, Jan 17<sup>th</sup> - Regular Business Meeting*  
Thursday, Jan 19<sup>th</sup> - Americanism, Drug Awareness,  
Gov't Relations, Membership,  
National Veterans Service,  
Public Relations, Youth Activities  
(Edgewater Park)

*Tuesday, Jan 24<sup>th</sup> - House & Lodge Activities Meeting*

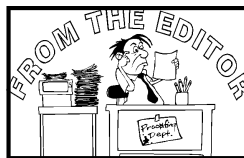
### PLEASE NOTE:

**There is only one Business Meeting this month!**

*All Lodge Meetings are in this color.*

*All District Meetings are in this color.*

All meetings start at 8PM unless otherwise noted.



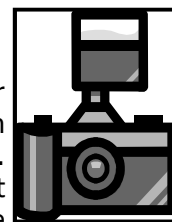
Bob O'Brien

If you have news or pictures of our Lodge, or if you change your e-mail address, please let me know at either [hightstownelks@yahoo.com](mailto:hightstownelks@yahoo.com) or [njbobob@verizon.net](mailto:njbobob@verizon.net).

Please send any news items for the newsletter no later than the 25th of each month. As an extra bonus, I'll ensure that timely submissions also make it to the District Website and District newsletter.

### ATTENTION: COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Any Lodge events - Please take pictures or forward any advertising or public mention to our email [hightstownelks@yahoo.com](mailto:hightstownelks@yahoo.com). We will attempt to have the event get some State Recognition and credit for the Lodge for Public Relations. We can also let the local newspapers know how we serve our community.



To remove your name from our mailing list, please email [hightstownelks@yahoo.com](mailto:hightstownelks@yahoo.com), please put UNSUBSCRIBE NEWSLETTER in the subject. All submissions are due no later than the 25th of each month, email them to [hightstownelks@yahoo.com](mailto:hightstownelks@yahoo.com), subject Newsletter



Hey Members! Check out our Lodge website at [www.elks1955.org](http://www.elks1955.org)

Webmaster—Rodger Lippman

We are on Facebook! Look up Hightstown Elks Lodge #1955 and join us as we find more ways to let you know what's going on in our Lodge





## A Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler Hon. David R. Carr

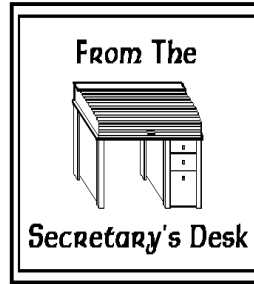
No organization, no matter how large or small, can survive without members. This is why membership has often been referred to as the "Lifeblood of our Order."

The Order of Elks experienced tremendous membership gains during its first 110 years, resulting in Lodges being chartered in towns and cities nationwide. This gain was the result of "word of mouth" as there was little news media in those early days. Our membership grew until March 1980, when we had 1,649,267 Members. Ever since that date, however, membership has steadily declined. With fewer Members and rising costs, many Lodges have faced serious financial difficulties. Some Lodges have ceased to exist or have had to merge with other Lodges.

In a majority of Lodges, the average member age is in the low to upper 60s. These Members once enjoyed the camaraderie at the Lodge and participating in Elks golf and bowling leagues. Today, many of these Members who were once very active seldom leave their homes except to go to the doctor or drug store. They no longer pay golf or bowling league fees because they are no longer able to play golf or bowl. Why should they pay Lodge dues when they can no longer frequent the Lodge? And many of our newer and younger Members have work and family commitments that prohibit their frequenting their Lodge.

The Lodge bulletin is the primary link between Member and Lodge. Unfortunately, too many bulletins are focused on the Member who can frequent the Lodge. Since we all know that "A photo speaks a thousand words", I urge every bulletin editor to ensure that there is a photo of a child holding up a dictionary or Elks Hoop Shoot or Soccer Shoot trophy he or she just received, or a photo of a veteran, victim of disaster, or person with a disability who is being assisted by the Elks Lodge. By doing so, you will help to make those Members who are unable to frequent the Lodge proud to be Elks.

As I have said on many occasions, "Elkdom is in the Hearts and Souls of our Members." Reach out to those Members who cannot frequent the Lodge and share with them the good works that your Lodge is doing.



I keep regular office hours every Tuesday evening from 8pm to 11pm. If you have lost your membership card or need information, please come see me.

If you need any membership applications, they are available at the Lodge and in the office. Initiation fee is \$60.00 and the annual dues are \$60.00.

### DUES ARE OVERDUE !!!

**If you haven't paid your \$60 dues yet, please send them in right away. If you are in financial distress, please let me know, your call will be held in confidence. Don't let hard times stop you from being an Elk.**

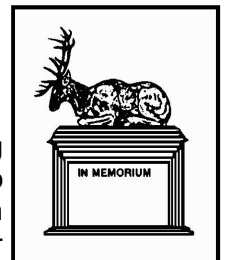


Please keep the following Elks and family members in your thoughts and prayers:

- Don Seladi
- Pat Flanner
- Bob Miller
- Bob Peterla's daughter

(Please let Lodge Secretary Pat O'Brien know of any other members or family who are sick so we can remember them in our prayers.)

## ELKS MEMORIAL SERVICES



All families are entitled to a Viewing Service for a departed Elk. To receive this service please have a family member or Funeral Director contact the Exalted Ruler for arrangements. We will be honored to perform the

## Where Are They?

Our **District Deputy, Tom Balint** and **District VP Manny Butera** continue to experience computer problems, but their columns will be back as soon as they're up and running!

# BLOOD DRIVE

Our lodge's 12<sup>th</sup> Blood Drive is scheduled for Jan 28<sup>th</sup> and you once again can be a Super Hero before Super Bowl. All of our stats are below and we have met or exceeded our goal 4 times in our past 11 drives. According to the Red Cross, out of 1,323 Civic/Community organizations in the entire Penn-Jersey Region Hightstown Elks BPOE 1955 is currently ranked 150<sup>th</sup>. This puts us in the top 11%.

If you would like to make a donor appointment and save someone's life, please email Tom McGeachen at [tjmcgeachnj@hotmail.com](mailto:tjmcgeachnj@hotmail.com)

Thanks for your past support  
TJ, 13 gallon donor

## Quick Stats for BPOE 1955 mobile blood drives, past and present

**Drives Held: 11**  
**Total Donations: 566**

**Average Goal per Drive: 57.36**  
**Average Donations per Drive: 51.45**

<u>Drive Date</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Total Donations</u>	<u>Drive Date</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Total Donations</u>
October 7, 2006	70	60	January 20, 2007	60	30
July 14, 2007	50	42	January 26, 2008	59	63
August 2, 2008	42	36	January 17, 2009	60	58
August 1, 2009	40	43	January 16, 2010	80	72
August 21, 2010	50	50	January 29, 2011	70	46
August 20, 2011	50	66	<b>January 28, 2012</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>??</b>



### From the Trustees

Our Games of Chance License application has been approved! Now our various committees can plan some new and exciting events to help fund their activities and give us all a chance to get together for some fun!

Stop by on Mondays, Tuesdays (meeting nites) and/or Fridays. Visit with your fellow Elks and find out what you can do to help out. If you think you can help with anything that needs doing, please speak with a Trustee. We're at the lodge every Tuesday evening. Or you can drop us an email at [hightstownelks@yahoo.com](mailto:hightstownelks@yahoo.com)

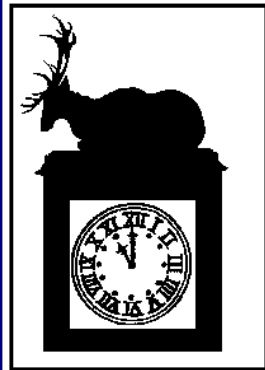
## REMINDERS!!!

If you do volunteer work on behalf of the Lodge please report your hours to the Lodge Secretary. We must keep track of all volunteer activity and report it. This helps us retain our Charitable Organization designation.

If you are the last person out of the Lodge for the day/evening, ensure all the doors and windows are locked and lights are out. The door between the Lodge Bar and the Lodge meeting room **should be locked**. Also, please make sure that the Heat is turned down (but not off!!!) Our utility bills are skyrocketing!

Don't forget that **every Lodge event (including fund raising)** must be brought to the Lodge Activities Committee for discussion and the House Committee for approval of the date prior to scheduling **even if it is a recurring event**. Make sure you allow enough time to come before the Committees which meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Lodge. And if you'll need a Cash Advance, remember they must be voted on at a business meeting before the event!

And just like at home, please clean up after yourself! If you come down to have a drink at the bar, and there isn't an attending bartender, wash up after yourself. This is your "home away from home" we don't have "Mom" picking up after us. It's only your fellow members picking up so **BE GOOD AND BE CLEAN!**



## LODGE OF SORROW

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of long-time member David Goldstein. David passed on October 28th, 2011 at the age of 94. (Apologies for the delay in getting this notice into the Newsletter; we didn't receive word until after the November newsletter was published, and it was inadvertently omitted in December. David was remembered by the Lodge at the annual Memorial Service on Sunday, December 4th, 2011.)

Hightstown Lodge has lost a long-time friend.

He is gone, but not forgotten... his virtues written upon the tablets of Love and Memory.

## STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Our Student of the Month program restarted in the fall, but we haven't gotten around to recognizing our winners in this newsletter. So it's catch-up time!

Winners for the month of December were **Jorge Blanco-Bedoya, Alexis McIver and Billy Rafalko**

Winners for the month of October were **Cole Fusik, Samuel Tenesaca & Amy Orellana**

November winners were not available at publication time.

Congratulations to all!

## Youth Recognition Day It's Coming Up Fast!

Elks National Foundation awarded Hightstown Lodge \$2000 to fund a great new event this June: Youth Recognition Day. The plan is to start with an afternoon picnic with hot dogs, burgers, chicken, salads and soft drinks. Also games, including a "bouncy castle" for the little ones and an inflatable obstacle course for all ages. Tentative date is **June 9th, 2012**.

After a couple hours of games and food, we'll briefly recognize winners of all Youth-related activities the Lodge conducted throughout the year — academic as well as athletic. We'd also like to recognize an outstanding teacher or two from EWRSD and a coach or two from HEWBL and/or PAL.

**And this will all be FREE for families in the community.**

The plan is to get 200 to 300 people into our pavilion and grounds for this event. But we're going to need volunteers... Lots of them!!!

So if you're willing to help with any of the following:

<b>General Setup</b>	<b>"Crowd Control"</b>
<b>Cooking(grilling)</b>	<b>Preparing cold salads</b>
<b>Shopping beforehand</b>	<b>Clean up</b>
<b>Inviting our youth "winners"</b>	
<b>Selecting teachers and/or coaches to be honored</b>	
<b>Delivering flyers to the schools</b>	

Please contact the Bob O'Brien at [njbobob@verizon.net](mailto:njbobob@verizon.net), or [hightstownelks@yahoo.com](mailto:hightstownelks@yahoo.com)... or call the Lodge... or talk to Bob. The time to start planning is NOW!



## Wildwood 2012 It's Coming Up Fast, too!

Exciting things are happening this year! We've got an active Convention Committee once again, and we're raising funds to help defray "hospitality" while we're down in Wildwood for the weekend of June 1st—3rd.

Hightstown Lodge is growing and vibrant, and the Wildwood Parade is a great way to show the State that we're here and proud to be Hightstown Elks.

So mark your calendars now, and watch this space next month for details on how to reserve your room for a fantastic weekend of fun and friendship in beautiful Wildwood, NJ.

## ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION



As of 12/26/11, Hightstown Lodge is up to **\$11.46** in per-capita giving. We continue to be #2 in the district and #15 (out of 117) in the State of New Jersey. (That's 5 more spots we've dropped!)

If your company participates in the United Way, you can target your contributions to ENF. (Remember to provide your Lodge and membership numbers). It's an easy way to give back to Elkdom. And if your company provides a matching gift, that will count toward our per-capita too!

Another easy way to contribute is to sign up for the 10 year subscription. For a \$100.00 pledge, you will be billed yearly in \$10.00 increments. \$10 per year... Less than 3 cents per day! The change from your morning coffee! What a great way to donate painlessly, and also help us easily meet our Lodge per capita goals. And if you've already finished a 10-year subscription, please consider signing on again for another round.

## For Your Enjoyment...

Our Lodge Bar currently features a wide selection of domestic, import, and "craft" beers for you to sample and enjoy:

### DOMESTIC BOTTLED BEER:

Budweiser	Bud Light
Michelob Lager	Michelob Ultra
Miller Lite	Bud Light Lime
Rolling Rock	Coors Light
Bud Light Lime	Miller Genuine Draft
St. Pauli Girl NA (non-alcoholic)	

### IMPORT/PREMIUM BOTTLED BEER:

Bass Ale	Corona Extra
Spaten	Amstel Light
Stella Artois	Blue Moon
Pale Moon	

On tap, it's **Landshark** and **Yuengling Lager**.

We've also added a selection of **Mike's Hard Lemonade** varieties. So come on down and enjoy yourself at YOUR LODGE!

## WWW.NJELKS.ORG

### Your source for State, District, and Local Elk Information

Don't remember when your next district committee meeting is? Don't remember when that next great event is at Hightstown Lodge? Looking for something a reason to visit a neighboring Lodge? Find it all in the Southwest District Activities section of the State Website! Or find the calendar at [www.localendar.com/public/SWDistrictNJElks](http://www.localendar.com/public/SWDistrictNJElks).

If you rely on your iPhone or iPad calendar apps, or Microsoft Outlook, or Yahoo or Google Calendars to keep your life organized, you can even subscribe to the District Calendar. Just go to the website shown above and click on the **ical** button at the very bottom. There's an RSS feed available as well.



# Happy Birthday!!!

Best Wishes to the following Members on their December Birthdays:

Ken Katcher  
Louis Cortese  
Robert Pecs  
Mark Nebbia  
Bob Valluzzo  
Wayne Varga

Don Seladi  
Danielle Curcio  
Elizabeth Bowling  
Matt Palmere  
Joyce Malsbury

Michael Mrvica  
Debra Obst  
Frank Hampton  
Jerry Ely  
Ken MacLean

*Our records are missing birthdays for a few of our members, and we don't want to forget you! If your name is in this list...*

Daniel Allesandro  
Thomas P Katsaros  
Dale K Sokol

Betsy Bloemeke  
Timothy J Keltly  
Karl Wagner

Robin Drew  
Jim McCabe  
Rebecca Young

Joel R Kaplan  
Michael T Rossen

*...please send an email to [hightstownelks@yahoo.com](mailto:hightstownelks@yahoo.com) with your date of birth... or call the Lodge (leave a message with your name and birthday)... or send us a note at 110 Hickory Corner Rd. East Windsor NJ 08520... or drop by on a Tuesday or Friday evening!*



## PER Association

ATTENTION ALL PAST EXALTED RULERS!!!

State Officer Elections will be held on Sunday, March 4th, from 2 to 4PM at Mt. Holly Lodge. All PERs (and the current ER) are eligible to vote, and should make use of their right of franchise.

If you have not received your State Association card, please contact Secretary Pat O'Brien IMMEDIATELY!

Jim Hall of Mt. Holly Lodge is the sole candidate for State Association President, and since nomination period has passed, he is already essentially the State President-elect. But there is an election... we've got two candidates for our District Vice President:

**Henry "Hank" Elmer of Bordendown Lodge**  
**Stanley "Stan" Reynolds of New Egypt Lodge**

Stan has asked that he be given the opportunity to come to our Lodge and introduce himself to our members, and in particular our PERs. An invitation has been extended to him to attend our second January business meeting (on Tuesday, January 17th) to do so.

## LODGE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Our House Committee and Trustees are in the process of putting together the new "To Do" list, and we'll be looking for you to help out any way you can. Watch this space for details!

Whenever we have a "5th Tuesday", we try to schedule a Lodge Cleanup Nights. Well... **Tuesday, January 31st** is a 5th Tuesday, so if you've got a little free time that evening, come on down and help out. There will be plenty for everybody to do, and we'll have a good time together doing it.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

At our meeting on Tuesday, January 3rd, we initiated 9 new members:

*Steven Meisberger*

*Louis Cortese*

*Andrew Curcio*

*Danielle Curcio*

*Heather Nicholas*

*Benjamin Nicholas*

*John Nimon*

*Richard Sheppard*

*Michael Mrvica*



**OBTAINED A  
NEW MEMBER ?**

Please join us in congratulating all on their initiation, and welcome them into OUR LODGE.

# UPCOMING LODGE EVENTS

There's lots of stuff going on! Be a part of your Lodge and come to these events!!

## SENSE-LESS KNOWLEDGE

Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 starting at 8PM

Join our "hosts" Bobby V and Mark H as they find out just how many brain-cells you're wasting on really useless knowledge. \$3 per person to play—and there are prizes to be won! Bring a snack, and bring a friend or three along! This is a great way to show prospective members how much fun we have.

## LODGE/VETERANS BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 8AM till Noon

Omelets, Pancakes, Waffles, French Toast, Bacon, Sausage, Eggs Benedict, Home Fries, Coffee, Tea, Juice and Cupcakes as always. Complimentary copies of the New York Daily News, too! Price is only \$9 per person, kids 10 and under are free. And Veterans always eat for free.

## COMEDY NIGHT

Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012

Last two years were sellouts, and this year will be too! So if you want the chance to spend an evening splitting your sides in laughter, make sure you get your tickets early. Whole tables are gone, but there are still some "loose tickets" to be had. Contact Secretary Pat O'Brien at the Lodge to reserve your seats while they last.

## PICNIC IN JANUARY

Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 7PM to 9PM

Hot dogs... Hamburgers... barbecue chicken... potato, macaroni and fruit salads... cole slaw... everything you need for a picnic... in January. (Yes, it's indoors, in the hall.) \$10 per person, kids 6-10 are \$7, kids 5 and under are free. For more information, call 609-819-5673 or contact the lodge.

## BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 8AM to 2PM

Give the gift of life. Contact Tom McGeachen for an appointment to donate. You can email Tom directly (see article earlier in this newsletter, or you can the Lodge at 609-448-9794 and Tom will get back to you to schedule a time for your donation. The drive will be held in the Lodge Hall. And if you can't donate, please consider coming down around noon to help Tom with cleanup.

## PAELLA NITE

Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 6PM to 8PM

Come on down and enjoy the best Paella you've ever had. Actually, choose from two: Seafood and Meat Paella Valenciana will be served. Reservations are required for this one, though. Please contact Maria MacLean at [mariamac26@comcast.net](mailto:mariamac26@comcast.net) for further details and to make your reservation.

## SUPER BOWL

Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 starting at 4PM

No matter who makes it through the playoffs, we'll be cheering for somebody at the Lodge! (And there's always the cool commercials!) Big screen... friends... food... what more could you want for America's Biggest Game? More details soon.

Later in February, watch for Bowling Night, Night of Beauty, and our ever-popular Fish Frydays!

For up-to-date info, check our Lodge website at <http://www.elks1955.org>  
Or sign up as fan on Facebook on Hightstown Elks BPOE #1955!