



“The Greenfield Elk”

ELKS CARE – ELKS SHARE



Volume CV47- Issue 1 www.greenfieldelks.org January 2026

Hoping everyone has enjoyed their holidays. There were a lot of events that took place at the lodge as well as we closed out 2025. Be sure to read the tip of the Antlers to read about these events and the members who did great work making these events successful.

As you read the Tip of the Antlers it is time to think about the Elk of the year. Nominations for this honor will soon be open and the opportunity for you to provide a vote for who should receive this honor. We are fortunate to have several members who work on events and help maintain our lodge facilities. Unfortunately, only one member may be honored in a year. Help honor a member by taking the time to cast your vote.

As we start 2026 it is time to think about filling the officer’s position for the coming Elks year. Please consider if you can support the lodge by taking an officer role. These positions do not require large amount of your time but are essential to the existence of the Lodge.

A Building Bridges luncheon will take place on January 8th, 2026. We will also be looking to resuming the second monthly luncheon. More information to follow.



E.R. Michele Kelleher
E.L.K. Jake Hagen

E.L.K. Harry Breite PDD PER
Sec. Fred Ulrich, PER
Treas. Timothy Herzig
Tiler Robert Mott PER, PDD

Trustees:

1 yr. Dave Sprague PER
2 yr. Mike Blanchard PDD PER
3 yr. John Williams
4 yr. Gary Gadreault PER
5yr. Scott Greaves PER
Esq. Neal Jennison PER
Chaplain Sue Breite
Inner Guard Chet Saharceski PER
Organist Bill Pease

“HALL RENTAL”

If you are interested
In renting the hall or
Know someone that
is,

Please phone Kelli
Snow

413-774-4909

Or email her at

kknowgreenfieldelks@gmail.com

“ELK OF THE YEAR”

All Members are asked to Submit their choice of ELK OF THE YEAR Forms are available at the Lodge as well as in the Bulletin. Please state your name and reason behind your choice.

This is a Prestigious award that is bestowed upon a worthy candidate for their support during this past year.

Two basic rules, They cannot be an Officer and only one is selected. Please submit that name by February 15,2026

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Chaplain Informs us...

Pam Baker Home
Hip Replacement

Fran Lemay
Al Tirrell
Charlene Manor

Tip of the Antlers

December was a very busy month with many events and members working on them. I apologize for any oversights or omissions that this may contain.

Holiday Decorations

Hope you had the opportunity to enjoy the Holiday Decorations during the season. A new Christmas tree was a very nice addition to the decorations. The tree was donated by Scott Greaves.

\$10,000 Drawing

Mark Lavin once again headed up the successful sale of tickets and a very nice celebration for the drawing. Mark wrote the following:

The \$10,000 Drawing was a success again this year. This is only possible because of our awesome members. A special thank you goes to the kitchen crew: Ray and Rindy Lavalley, Linda Baker, and David Sprague. Also, thanks to the setup crew for the tables and chairs: Tim Herzig, Scott Greaves, and Corey O'Connell. Scott also ran a 50/50 drawing. Thank you to the winner, Juice Moore (Mike Moore), for donating his portion back to the Lodge. To all the ticket sellers, thank you! This drawing would not have happened without you. Many new people stepped up and sold tickets this year. Tickets were sold out the day before the drawing, and I think they will sell out even earlier next year. I think I will stay with the new hours for the drawing next year.

Thank you to the bartenders working this event: Kelli, Shelley, and Erin.

Committee Chair,

Mark Lavin PER x2

Building Bridges

The December Building Bridges luncheon was held on December 11th. Anne Marie Brady and her son Will again prepared a very nice lunch that was attended by approximately 80 Veterans, In addition to the meal, Anne Marie and Will decided to donate 10 gift cards valued at \$20. each. She purchased these from various businesses in our community, When she made her purchase at each she also asked if the business was willing to donate. Applebee's asked how many Veterans attended the lunches. Anne Marie advised that 80 had attended in November. The manager returned with 80 gift cards of \$10 each. The Veterans were each given a number and all the gift cards were raffled off and given to the Veterans.

Members who assisted at this luncheon were Bob Mott and Peter Broughan.

Hoop Shoot

The Hoop Shoot was held on December 13th. This was headed up by Mike Blanchard. Folks who helped out with this event are Bob Mott, Neal Jennison, Tim Herzig, Heather, Owen and Noah Blanchard.

12 Days of Christmas

Deb Barton-Duprey again led this event. Tickets for this were sold by several members and their efforts are appreciated. Thank you to all who helped with this and congratulations to the winners.

Christmas Food Baskets

Hopefully you have had a chance to see the great article in the newspaper about this charitable activity. This charitable activity has been very successfully led by Tim Herzig for 10 years. Tim's thank you and acknowledgement of all who helped with this follows:

The Annual delivery of 50 Christmas Food Baskets for the needy took place on Saturday December 20, 2025.

Thanks to Gary Gadreault for writing the Grant to fund the cost of the baskets.

Thanks to Tim Herzig, Dave, Marsha and Camden Bonnett, Fred Ulrich, Ed Underwood, Jim Cadran, Ron and Connor Zabko, and Jean Wilder for picking up the food on Friday.

A big thank you to the ones who set up the baskets and delivered;

Tim Herzig, Dave, Marsha and Camden Bonnett, Mike and Buzzy Blanchard, Kelli Snow, Ed Underwood, Jim Cadran, Bill and Corey O'Connell, Jerry Giamari, John Williams, Leigh Jenks, Bruce Zimmerman, Neal Jennison, Bob Mott, Doug Turner, Tom Herzig and Krista Campbell.

Year End Parties

The year was closed out with a Christmas party and another on New Year's Eve. The names of all who helped with these are not known at present. It seems very likely that Kelli Snow, Deb Barton-Duprey and Ray and Rindy LaValley all helped with these. A big thank you to all who helped with these.

'Our motto is charity'

Elks Lodge continues century-old tradition of delivering Christmas meals

By MADISON SCHOFIELD
Staff Writer

GREENFIELD — The Greenfield Elks Lodge has been in the business of community service for more than a century, and this year is no different. On Saturday, more than a dozen Elks packaged and delivered supplies for Christmas meals to residents in need.

Elks Lodge members, and a few of their family members who came to help with the distribution, operated like a well-oiled machine. Turkeys were passed down the line, potatoes were tossed from one Elk to the next and rolls were gently placed on top of

each box as the Elks worked their way up and down rows of 50 boxes.

Treasurer Tim Herzig said many of the members have been involved with the food distribution for years and know the drill by now. Herzig has been in charge of organizing the distribution for the past 10 years, but has been a member for 38 years.

"It's pretty much the same as last year," Herzig said. "We were established in 1913 and we've been doing it since then."

Herzig said preparations start just after Thanksgiving, when he begins

reaching out to the schools for names of families that would benefit from receiving a box of food. Then, in early December, the Elks Lodge contacts Food City in Turners Falls to put in orders for groceries.

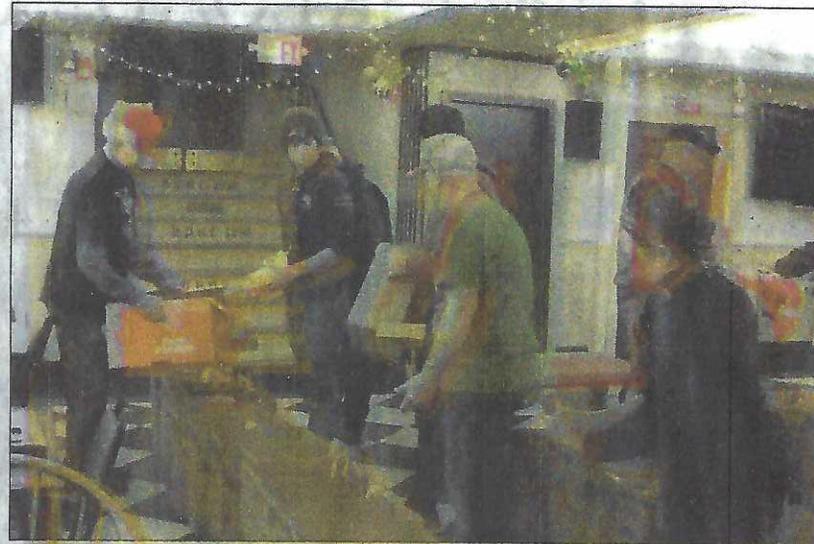
Each box is complete with a turkey, potatoes, stuffing, carrots, canned vegetables, butter,

cranberry sauce, dinner rolls, a gallon of milk and a pie — pretty much "everything you need for a good hol-

"One thing we focused on this year, and the school helped us with that, is that we focused a lot on [giving boxes of food to] families with multiple kids."

TIM HERZIG

Greenfield Elks Lodge treasurer



MADISON SCHOFIELD / Staff Photo

On Saturday, members of the Greenfield Elks Lodge packaged and delivered boxes with supplies to cook Christmas meals.

iday meal," he said.

After loading up the boxes, donated by Home Depot, with food, Elks members team up to load them into their vehicles and deliver them to residences around Greenfield. Similarly to how they load the boxes, the Elks tackle delivering them in the same smooth manner of a group that has done this dozens of times before.

Herzig added that while the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is a nonprofit, it operates much like a business to ensure smooth and sustainable operations that can continue to support the community year after year.

"We do have a budget for this and budgets every year for the charity work we do. This is for charity, but this is a business and we have to run it as such," Herzig explained. "This is all volunteer. Everyone who's here pays their membership fees and helps out with the other functions, too."

Between membership dues, hall rentals and fundraisers, the Elks Lodge is able to provide Christmas meals and do other charitable work.

"We're a large organization throughout the country, and our

motto is charity. We go out for the veterans, we host Building Bridges luncheons once a month, we have a youth activities committee," Herzig said. "There's a lot that goes on throughout the year."

While the food distribution ran fundamentally the same way as in the past, Herzig said this year the Elks made a few adjustments in how they selected the recipients of the boxes, focusing more on families with children.

"We get the names from TRIAD and Greenfield Public Schools, and sometimes members suggest names, and those names really seem to be the best we have gotten," Herzig said. "One thing we focused on this year, and the school helped us with that, is that we focused a lot on families with multiple kids."

Herzig added that Elks members volunteer because "community service is what they do," but this year, community service came with an extra show of appreciation, as the Elks Lodge had two extra turkeys that were raffled off to members who assisted in packing and delivering the boxes of food.

Camden Bonnett, at left, and his grandfather David Bonnett load milk into the back of David's truck at the Greenfield Elks Lodge on Saturday.

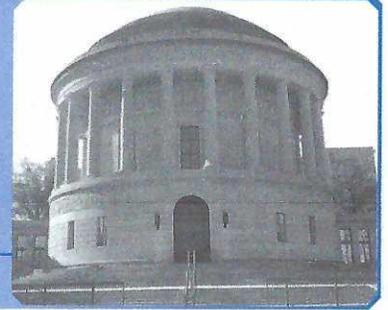


MADISON SCHOFIELD / Staff Photo



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



Deadlines approach for awards, financial filings

Happy 2026 to all our Elks family! January starts the last quarter of the Lodge year. Be sure to have your membership retention program working on achieving a +1 membership gain for 2026! Have your membership committee and delinquent Member sponsor reach out to those lapsed Members. This personal contact could very well bring these Members back on to our rolls. Our delinquent Members had a reason for joining and they are worth keeping as active Members. Find out why they are delinquent.

As the Lodge year is nearing the end, there is no better way to recognize those Members and citizens who have gone beyond the call of duty in their service to Elksdom than to award them with “Elk of the Year,” “Officer of the Year,” and “Citizen of the Year.” The awards request



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler
BRYAN R. KLATT

form can be accessed in the Members Only section of elks.org and needs to be submitted prior to March 31 so that the certificates can be printed and sent back to the Lodge for Officer installations or year-end award gatherings.

Also, the Legacy Award scholarship is available until February 2, 2026. It provides \$4,000 scholarships to the children and grandchildren of Elks Members. Details of

the scholarship can be found on the Elks National Foundation website.

The end of the Lodge fraternal year will be here soon. With the Financial Reporting System (FRS), your Lodge needs to ensure all entries are current. A bonus of having the FRS system is that your Lodge no longer needs to have the annual audit completed. However, you still must submit your 990 and 990T for each corporation in your Lodge. Have them completed by a qualified individual (e.g., CPA) and filed with the IRS and uploaded on elks.org.

Membership... Membership... Membership: There are three months left in this year. Initiate all your candidates and work on the delinquent list!

To *Be The Difference* means searching for ways to improve what we have while looking forward to the future.

There’s no time like the present

Lodge Secretaries: The Order’s fifth consecutive membership gain might just rest on your shoulders!

Last check there were more than 10,000 candidates awaiting acceptance into a Lodge. We depend on you to manage the sometimes time-consuming onboarding process and ask that you give this your undivided attention

as we enter the final quarter of our fiscal year. You are no doubt our unsung heroes and we can never thank you enough for everything you do!

Please also pay attention to those Members in the transfer portal. For a transfer into or out of your Lodge to be successfully counted, it must be approved and completed before March 31. The transfer procedure must be precisely followed and any variance

GRAND SECRETARY
Carl T. Seibert

Please see **SEIBERT**, Page 3

Anniversary lottery is now open

The new year has arrived and with it comes an exciting milestone: the lottery is officially open for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Elks National Memorial.

The building has stood for a century as a remarkable tribute to the service and sacrifice of the nation’s veterans and the enduring spirit of Elksdom. In 2026, as part of the Elks National Convention in Chicago, we will honor this landmark with a special anniversary ceremony on Saturday, July 4.

Enter the Lottery Today

Elks wishing to attend the anniversary ceremony may now enter the online-only ticket lottery, available January 1 through March 15, 2026. Please remember:

- One entry per Elk.
- Phone entries cannot be accepted.
- Lottery winners will receive two ceremony tickets and bus transportation to the event.
- The ceremony will feature a one-hour outdoor program and guided tours of the Memorial Building.



This once-in-a-lifetime celebration is expected to draw interest from across the country—don’t delay your entry. Full details and the lottery link are available at: elks.org/memorial/Anniversary.cfm.

Commemorative Merchandise Still Available

As we move deeper into this anniversary year, Members can continue to show their Elks pride with official 100th Anniversary Memorial merchandise. Shirts, hats, pins, and additional items may be purchased at: dturin.com/elks-usa/100th-anniversary-national-memorial-merchandise.

Let us begin 2026 with gratitude for our history, pride in our traditions, and excitement for the memorable celebration ahead.

ROSE PARADE



ELKS U.S.A.

THEME: "ELKS CARE - ELKS SHARE"

January Birthday

- Jan 1 Daniel Haley
2. **Kelli Snow**
3. Maurice Chamberlain
5. Codey Kingsbury
7. William Erman
8. Ed Croteau, Joe Fistes
13. Richard Herzig
14. Nick Koscinski
16. Brett Saharceski, Peter Weiss
17. Amanda Sumner
20. Bob Bassett, Doug Fontaine, Mike Morawski Jr.
21. Jeffrey C. Baker, Marsha Bonnett, Cheryl Broughan
22. Krista Campbell, **Mark Lavin PER**
25. Dave Lewandowski, Robert Wood Sr.
26. Todd Berger, **Bill Martin PER**
27. Sean Masom, Elizabeth Moore
28. Richard Cadran
31. Paul Doran, Dave Norman

Come on down, have a libation
And meet your friends and members

Computation of Grand Lodge Dues: 2026-2027

Under Sections 4.231, 14.150 & 14.300 *Laws of The Order*, in addition to their annual dues, it is Now mandatory for the collection of the Grand Lodge Per Capita and assessments from each Member, including Life Members. *The total Per Capita for Grand Lodge, Elks Magazine and Insurance is \$37.00 per Member.* The Breakdown of the total Grand Lodge Per Capita And Assessments for **the 2026-2027** fraternal Year is as follows:

For Grand Lodge expenses & operations	\$6.50	
For subscription to Elks Magazine	\$5.50	
For General Liability Insurance Assess.	\$25.00	
	\$37.00	
Mass. State Association	\$2.25	
Regular Lodge Dues	\$60.00 + \$39.25	\$99.25
Life Members	\$30.00 + \$39.25	\$69.25

LODGE BYLAWS

Greenfield Lodge Bylaws are available on line at

<http://www.elks.org/lodges/bylaws.cfm?lodgeNumber=1296>

A user name and password are required, and access through this link is restricted to Lodge members only. Members who don't have a password may register by giving their membership number and name to Grand Lodge online at:

<http://www.elks.org/members/registration.cfm>

LODGE DUES 2026-2027

NAME: _____ Greenfield Elks #1296
ADDRESS:- _____ 3 Church St.
_____ Greenfield, Ma 01301
Date: _____

Are you a Veteran? Yes No E-Mail

Regular Dues \$60.00 Grand Lodge assessments \$39.25 Due **\$99.25**

Life Member \$30.00 Grand Lodge assessments \$39.25 Due **\$69.25**

Phone #

Cell #

E-Mail

Door Access has been installed. FOB or Card available at Lodge

Greenfield #1296



Greenfield #1296



CORNHOLE

TOURNAMENT

Saturday

January 31st

1PM

2 Person Teams

\$10. Per Person

Please sign up by

1/29/26

Limited to 24 Teams

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm Kelli Snow Birthday	3
4	5	6	7	8 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Pitch League	9	10
11 8:00 pm - 11:30 pm Patriots vs LA Chargers AFC Division	12	13 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm BOD & Lodge Meeting	14	15 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Pitch League	16	17
18 10:00 am - 12:00 pm West Central PER Meeting	19	20	21	22 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Pitch League	23	24 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Area 1 District Deputy Meeting
25	26 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm Bill Martin PER Birthday	27 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm BOD & Lodge Meeting	28	29 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Pitch League	30	31 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm Cornhole Tournament