



Jan/Feb/March Newsletter 2026

EXALTED RULER MESSAGE

As the holiday season moves into the rear-view mirror, it's a good time to step back and appreciate the good work our lodge does at this time of the year. The spirit of giving has a year-round presence at the Bloomsburg Elks Lodge, but there is something special about the Christmas season. This year, two projects serve as examples of our service to the community and those in need.

Our local Veterans Committee partnered with the Wilkes Barre VA Medical Center to provide financial support for two critical veteran's programs. One program was developed to serve the specific social and therapeutic needs of female veterans. Our donation will help sponsor outreach and in-house activities to an often overlooked population. Additional donations were provided to the homeless veterans program at the center. Our donations will be utilized to sponsor activities and the provision of comfort, hygiene, food and clothing items. Gift bags were also provided to 60 disabled veterans at the VA and local nursing facilities.

A second project deserving mention was our Holiday Canned Food Drive. This project was seeded by a \$1000 Freedom Grant from the Elks National Veterans Committee. Donation bins were provided in six locations around town. Grant funds and local donations provided 1,362 food items to be shared with veterans experiencing food insecurity. Generous donations from within our lodge accounted for nearly 350 food items. Volunteers also helped with pick-up and delivery of every can.

I continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity demonstrated by the Charity Committee and the members of Lodge 436. Our giving is impressive on a large scale, and also appreciated on an individual level. Our lodge continues to impact people's lives in a positive way. Keep up the good work!

Jim Krause

LODGE MEETINGS

Tuesday Evening, January 6, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

The following members will be proposed for Life Membership in the Bloomsburg Elks as they have been members for a period of not less than 30 consecutive years. At the 2022 Grand Lodge Convention, held in Atlanta, GA, Section 14.260, the age requirement, (65) was removed as a requirement for Life Membership. The following members have met the requirement of not less than 30 consecutive years and will be proposed for Life Membership in the Bloomsburg Elks: James J. Carey, Emil T. Moskovich, John A. Panko, Michael R. Rupert, Thomas C. Vought and for the transaction of any such business which may come before the Lodge.

Tuesday Evening, January 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

New member Information & Instruction

Tuesday Evening, January 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Initiation of New Members. A ballot will be taken on the members who were proposed for Life Membership in the Bloomsburg Elks at the January 6, 2026 Lodge meeting and for the transaction of any such business which may come before the Lodge.

Tuesday Evening, February 3, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Past Exalted Rulers Night and Nomination of Officers for the 2026-2027 Lodge Year.

All Past Exalted Rulers and members are invited by Exalted Ruler James Krause to attend this special night. Past Exalted Rulers will be filling the Lodge Chairs during the meeting.

Nomination of Officers for the 2026-2027 Lodge year will be held for the following offices: Exalted Ruler, Esteemed Leading Knight, Esteemed Loyal Knight, Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Secretary, Treasurer, Trustee, for Three Years. Delegate to the State Convention, and Alternate Delegates to the National and State Convention.

Tuesday Evening, February 17, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Maryruth Wagner, Chair of the Americanism Committee and the rest of the Committee will be presenting the Awards to the winners of this year's Americanism Contest. All members are welcome to attend.

Tuesday Evening, February 17, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

The Election of Officers will be held for the 2026-2027 Lodge Year, that were nominated at the February 3, 2026 Lodge Meeting. And for the transaction of any other such business that may come before the Lodge.

Tuesday Evening, March 3, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

For the transaction of any such business that may come before the Lodge.

Tuesday Evening, March 17, 2026 7:00 p.m.

For the transaction of any such business that may come before the Lodge.

In Memoriam

Thomas J. Evans, Jr.
Initiated: March 4, 1971
Died: October 24, 2025

Frank A. Pypiak
Initiated: October 17, 2006
Died: November, 1, 2025

E. Rube Rider, PER
Initiated: June 20, 1963
Exalted Ruler 1973-1974
Died: November 18, 2025

Ronald M. DeMelfi
Initiated: March 17, 1964
Died: November 21, 2025

Ronald W. Long
Initiated: June 5, 1980
Died: November 30, 2025

2026-2027 Membership Dues

Membership dues will remain the same for 2026-2027 Lodge year at \$68.00 for a Regular Member and \$48.00 for a Life Member. The breakdown of the membership dues is: \$31.00 per member to Grand Lodge for expenses and operations, the Elks Magazine, and General Liability Insurance, for a total of \$31.00 per member that must be sent to Grand Lodge by April 30, 2026. The PA Elks State Association dues are \$3.00 per member which must also be paid by April 30, 2026. This brings the total to \$34.00 of each member's dues are sent to the Grand Lodge and the Pennsylvania Elks State Association. The Bloomsburg Elks membership dues **before** the per capita to the Grand Lodge and the PA Elks State Association is \$34.00 per Regular member and \$14.00 per Life member.

The new key card for 2026-2027 will be ORANGE in color and will work in the door card lock immediately. On April 1, 2026 the door card lock will be changed to only accept the new ORANGE key card.

Dues notices will be sent out by the middle of January 2026.

From the Desk of the Secretary

Our current membership at this writing is 821 with 12 candidates awaiting initiation, which will occur on January 20, 2026, bringing our total to 833. Our current delinquent list is at 58 members whom have not yet paid their 2025-2026 lodge year membership dues. Please note that Bloomsburg Lodge has already paid the Grand Lodge Per Capita and the PA Elks State Association of \$34.00 for these members back in April 2025 for a total cost, out of our operating budget of \$1,972.00. Final notices will go out to these members in March. Please check you membership cards. We are hoping that we do not have to drop any of our members this year for non-payment-of dues. Our goal as always is to have zero lapsation and to maintain a membership of over 800, but we are going to need some help.

Members, if you know if there are any of our members who are in a nursing home or assisted living facilities please notify the Lodge Secretary by e-mail or leave a message with the bartender. We would also like to know where they are. We are missing some of our fellow members and their status mostly due to lack of communication. It has been the policy of Bloomsburg Lodge to cover the membership dues of any member that is in that situation.

It would be great if attendance at the Lodge meetings would increase. The more members in attendance, the better the meeting. Meetings usually only last about 45 minutes or less. As always if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the Lodge or you can leave a message with the bartender if I'm not in and I will call you back, or you can send me an e-mail at bpoe436@verizon.net.

Old Timers Night and All Committee/Volunteer Appreciation Night Tuesday, March 24, 2026 Starting at 5:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this year's Old Times Night and All Committee/Volunteer Appreciation Night. All **members** are invited to join in this special evening, when we honor the members who have attained 25 year and 50 year memberships during this Lodge year. During this event we will also be presenting the "Officer of the Year" and "Elk of the Year" awards.

Dinner and draft beer is free to **ALL** members of Bloomsburg Lodge with their paid up membership card.

The following members attained their 25-year membership during this the 2025-2026 Lodge Year: Robert E. Barton, Elizabeth A. Dawson and Florian R. James.

The following members attained their 50-year year membership during this the 2025-2026 Lodge Year and will also be our special guest: John R. Angus, H James Hock, Thomas A. James, Robert G. Kocher, Dennis Laubach, Rodney D, Morgan, Harry W. Neufer, and Steven L. Strausser.

Let's make this a special night for all of you members. It is a great night to renew old friendships, relive the old days and look to the future.

From the Sportsman's Party Committee

The 28th Sportsman's Annual Party is scheduled for Sunday, February 22, 2026. It will be held at the Espy Fire Hall. Tickets are available at the bar. There will only be 300 tickets sold and will be \$50.00 each.

From the Board of Directors

Take-Out fish dinners on Friday's during Lent will be starting on February 27, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Dine in or take out.

Want to see what's happening or send us some news: Bloomsburg Elks News e-mails, or you can call the club at 570-784-1564 for event updates.

Please also check out our new Facebook page Bloomsburg Elks Lodge 436, our website: Bloomsburgelks.org and our email bloomelksmedia436@gmail.com

Business Hours

Monday-Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

(or later if business warrants at bartenders discretion)

Lunch 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Living Past Exalted Rulers of Bloomsburg Lodge

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| 1980-1981 | C. David Case |
| 1983-1984 | James F. Michael, Jr. |
| 1984-1985 | Richard L. Ward, Jr. |
| 1987-1988 | Richard G. Rhone |
| 1988-1989 | Kenneth N. Weaver |
| 1989-1990 | John C. Penman |
| 1994-1995 | Michael R. Rupert |
| 1996-1997 | Merle A. Barnes |
| 1997-1998 | David Spiwak |
| 1999-2000 | Christopher E. Davis |
| 2002-2003 | Mary F. Ward |
| 2004-2005 | Carol K. Gerber |
| 2007-2008 | Christopher E. Davis |
| 2008-2009 | Richard L. Ward, Jr. |
| 2009-2011 | Jan E. Bryan-Davis |
| 2011-2012 | Karl O. Rickmers |
| 2013-2014 | Matthew J. Ritter |
| 2017-2018 | Karl O. Rickmers |

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|-----------|--------------------|
| 2020-2021 | Virginia D. Kocher |
| 2021-2022 | Terry Lehman |
| 2023-2024 | Samuel D. Haynes |
| 2024-2025 | Gisele G. Tobin |

Members of Bloomsburg Lodge who are Past Exalted Rulers of another Lodge

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 1973-1974 | Kenneth L. Woodruff, Sr., Danville Lodge #754 |
| 1987-1988 | James E. Hack, Danville Lodge #754 |
| 1991-1992 | Larry P. Knorr, Danville Lodge #754 |
| 1992-1993 | Franklin G. Wilson, Danville Lodge #754 |
| 2002-2004 | Kevin L. Brouse, Danville Lodge #754 |
| 2004-2005 | John G. Hoy, Danville Lodge #754 |
| 2010-2011 | Christy M. Worhach, Berwick Lodge #1138 |
| 2020-2021 | Theresa M. Harris, Berwick Lodge #1138 |

Cyber News

The Pennsylvania Elks State Association has resurrected The Pennsylvania Elk newsletter. It's now called the PENNSYLVANIA ELK ONLINE. You can find it online at www.thepaelk.us. You need a password to read the newsletter. The password is bpoe.

Veterans Service Committee

The Veterans Service Committee was busy again during the last three months. The Committee was able to bring the Veterans from the Wilkes-Barre VA down to the Bloomsburg Fair. We provided a box lunch and tickets into the fair and the American Legion provided each Veteran with \$50.00 spending money. The Committee also provided dinner for the Vets at the Orangeville Manor on Veterans Day and prepared Christmas presents for 60 of the Vets at the Wilkes-Barre VA. The presents were delivered to the VA and were much appreciated.

Youth Activities

The Youth Activities Committees held their third Soccer Shoot in September and the Hoop Shoot which was held on January 4th had 16 participants. Turn-out was not great but everyone had a good time. At both events the kids were treated to Napp's Pizza which went over very well!

Lodge Officers for 2025-2026

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Exalted Ruler..... | James K. Krause |
| Esteemed Leading Knight..... | John C. Pollard |
| Esteemed Loyal Knight..... | Thomas W. Martz |
| Esteemed Lecturing Knight..... | |
| Secretary..... | James F. Michael, Jr., PER |
| Assistant Secretary..... | Denise A. Stone |
| Treasurer..... | Misty M. Chapman |
| Esquire..... | Angela A. Augustine-Beaver |

Tiler..... Glenn D. Titman, II
Inner Guard.....James E. Hack, PER
Organist..... Dale F. Michael
Trustee for 1 year.....Kathleen A. Lynn
Trustee for 2 years.....Samuel D. Haynes, PER
Trustee for 3 years.....Gisele G. Tobin, PER

Bar Book

Did you sign the Bar Book? A member's name is drawn each day and if the member has signed the Daily Bar Book they win! The Bar Book is \$1.00 to sign and is progressive up to \$500.00. If no one hits then a second progressive bar book is started and a second name drawn. You need to only sign once to be included if there is more than one payout. The following is a list of members whose names have been drawn from October 7, 2025 to December 31, 2025. If there is a * following the name they were a winner. Is your name on the list?

| | | | |
|-------|---|--|--|
| 10/7 | Kevin Kennedy Jerry Lane Henry Troupe George Larson Christopher Worhach | Eric Heier John Parcell | Penelope Murphy John Berger III |
| 10/8 | Martín Mariano Barry Rider Teresa Janson BJ Austin Richard Garman | 10/23 Harry T. Watts Christopher Davis Frank Schmidt Ted Whitenight 10/24 Rube Rider Randy Haladay Robert Linn* Mark Creasy | 11/11 Kimberly Turzanski Ted Birk Eric Hess 11/12 Florian James Crystal Felker Misty Chapman 11/13 Lin Phan Donald Bowman Shawn Snyder John Parcell |
| 10/9 | John Hagemeyer Lester Boudman Joanna Calarco* Robert Wingate* Earl Mordan | 10/25 Tammy Stackhouse* David Hess Mike Wallace 10/26 John Knowlton Michael Brown | 11/14 Bradley Breisch Jeff Winn* Brody Beaver* Lana Dworsak |
| 10/10 | Vincent Anceravage William Kreisher Michael Cosh* | 10/27 Christopher Dawson Brian Rhone 10/28 Patricia SanFilippo Aydan McFarland | 11/15 Amy Bartholomew John Angus 11/16 Ethan Ikeler Suzanne Lange 11/17 Richard Ridgway Eric Heier |
| 10/11 | Richard Conner Stephen Pierce Thomas Ball, Jr. | 10/29 David Boyd Terry Wintersteen Jay Hock | 11/18 Duane Hock Christopher Davis 11/19 Florian James Juliann Fedder |
| 10/12 | Donald Risha Sharon Hoy Frank Baker | 10/30 Christopher Anderson Joshua Knorr Donald Pursel 10/31 Brian Rhone Victor Hannah Diane Grieser | 11/20 Thomas Ball Maryann McLaughlin 11/21 George Bonetti Florian James |
| 10/13 | Joseph Koons Carol Wagner Vincent Taggart | 11/1 Robert Burgess Todd Kreisher Lin Phan | 11/22 Theresa Harris Nicholas Karnes Dennis Krum |
| 10/14 | Donald Kelchner Ashley Breece Edward Folk | 11/2 Duane Hock Michael Brown Roy Odell | 11/23 Jamie Kistler Tammy Schmid Thomas Gibble |
| 10/15 | Steve Shannon John Gensemer Marverne Johnson | 11/3 Daniel Carr Samuel Haynes Craig Cool | 11/24 Floyd Walters* Richard Knorr Daniel Morrison |
| 10/16 | Kyle Gordon Jere Vietz Cheryl Reichart | 11/4 Eric Brobst Sheryl Tomlinson Robert Matthews* | 11/25 Linda McCormick Frank Dent 11/26 Lee Wright Robert Barton |
| 10/17 | Samuel Kuhn Gregory Sweeney Stanley Hayes | 11/5 Fred Kramer Scott Diltz Richard Martinez | 11/27 & 11/28 Baron Weeks Laurie Wallace |
| 10/18 | Matthew Stone Kathleen Carr Nancy Edwards | 11/6 Ronald DeMelfi Robert Crawford Louise Hess | 11/29 Scott Diltz Jeffrey Breisch |
| 10/19 | Jason Austin John Austin Amiee DiFebo Thomas McCormick* | 11/7 Dennis Levan Christopher Howell Charles Williams | 11/30 Richard Knorr Kevin Swisher |
| 10/20 | Justin Ficher James Dodge David Case Dewey Evans* | 11/8 Bradley Knorr Levi Tingley Hervey Gillespie | 12/1 Michelle Fields Diane Grieser Danny Henrickson |
| 10/21 | Mark Conner J. Barry Hartman Drex Levan Walter Portzline | 11/9 Denny Bird David Stackhouse Christopher Anderson | 12/2 & 12/3 Steven DiFebo* Timothy Chamberlain |
| 10/22 | Donald Kelchner Barry Rider | 11/10 Luther Black | |

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| | Frank Schmidt | | Christopher Molinaro |
| 12/4 | Larry Knorr | 12/28 | Colton Fisher |
| | John Bunyan | | Harry Neuffer |
| 12/5 | Christopher Dawson | | Debra Knittle |
| | Michelle Pitchford | | Ann Seroskie |
| 12/6 | Robert Ramsey | 12/29 | Tara Knorr |
| | Scott Fought | | Tom Bowman |
| 12/7 | Edward Griffiths | | Rodney Lupini |
| | Michael Brandau | | Lee Ercolani |
| 12/8 | Nichole Young | 12/3 | Kelly McBride Young |
| | Jeffrey Dewalt | | Michael Girton |
| 12/9 | Edward Folk | | Matthew Sanders |
| | Theresa Bailey | | Tiffany Jackson |
| 12/10 | David Spivak | | |
| | Steve Masala | | |
| 12/11 | Judi Gensemer | | |
| | Patricia SanFilippo | | |
| | Steven Cooke | | |
| 12/125 | James Gillespie | | |
| | Gail Reyes-Garcia * | | |
| | Sylvester Kowalski | | |
| 12/13 | Gary Norton | | |
| | Walter Wiktor | | |
| 12/14 | Lana Dworsak | | |
| | Robert McBride | | |
| 12/15 | Joseph Snyder | | |
| | William Reese | | |
| 12/16 | Kim Shannon | | |
| | Richard Matthews | | |
| 12/175 | Christopher Howell | | |
| | Shirley Brobst | | |
| 12/18 | Mary Ward | | |
| | Bert Ritter | | |
| | Joseph Snyder | | |
| 12/19 | Monica McFarland | | |
| | Jill Paden | | |
| | Thomas James | | |
| 12/20 | Jeffrey Bachinger | | |
| | Richard Ridgway | | |
| | Robert Barton, Jr. | | |
| 12/21 | Donald Purcell | | |
| | John Samies | | |
| | Karl Anderson | | |
| 12/22 | John Berger | | |
| | Daniel Carr | | |
| | Joanna Calarco | | |
| 12/23 | Gary Norton | | |
| | Frank Schmidt | | |
| | Philip Curland | | |
| 12/245 | Debbie Martz | | |
| | Thomas Lyons | | |
| | Richard Rhone | | |
| 12/26& | | | |
| 12/27 | James O'Keefe | | |
| | Sawyer Brown | | |
| | James Kistler | | |