

BRIGANTINE LODGE
#2428
Benevolent and Protective
ORDER OF ELKS
United States of America
P.O. Box 44
Brigantine, NJ 08203

Non-Profit
Organization

U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 6
Brigantine, N.J.

ELKS CARE - ELKS SHARE

January 2009

Upcoming Events:

- Dec. 30** - New Year's Eve party
- Jan. 19-23** - Lounge closed due to forthcoming repairs
- Jan. 31** - Pinewood Derby 10:30am
- March 14** - St. Patrick's Day
- April 4** - Nashville Night
- April 10** - Fish Fry

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|--|-------------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------|
| | | | Dec. 31 Elvis! | 1 | Friday Night Food 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 Trustees meeting 7pm | 7 | 8 | 9 Friday Night Food | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 House Comm. 6pm & Lodge meeting | 14 | 15 | 16 Friday Night Food | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Friday Night Food | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 House Comm. 6pm & Lodge meeting | 28 | 29 | 30 Friday Night Food | 31 |

Antlers



Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
of USA
BRIGANTINE LODGE #2428

Exalted Ruler's Message For January 2009



To my Brothers and Sisters,
The end of the calendar year is approaching and as we join with our families and loved ones to share this special time, let us give thanks for what we have. This year especially with the uncertainty and problems that are going on in the world it is more important than ever that we continue to work together for the good of our community. You the members keep on working and keep on doing, it's really something, to see all that's been going on. December has been as busy as any month this year. We started with the announcement that three officers and a member were given awards from the South District for their performance in the Ritual contest. It continued with the Americanism essay contest and awards banquet, the Veterans visiting our Lodge and we going to their home in Vineland, the Elks memorial service was a very nice morning and an emotional way to say goodbye to our absent brothers. The Elks kids and Special Children's parties were so good for all the kids, The hoop shoot was Saturday and while we didn't have a real big turnout we have a couple of kids who should do well in the district competition. It's good to be a member of this Lodge and to be a part of everything going on. I have to thank Joanne Delaney and Donna Fulmer and everyone who helped with the Americanism awards dinner. Joe Kelly and all his committee members for the Army Navy game Veterans visit, and the trip to the Vineland Veterans home, a job very well done. Chairwomen Laura Greutz shepherded the Officers and members thru the Memorial Service on Dec. 7th and made sure all went well. The food after the service was delicious and also helped feed the football fans later that day, thanks for everything Laura. Next up Terry and Lenny Kachur with our children's Christmas party did a bang up job, the day was as nice a day as I've spent in this Lodge. The Special Children's Christmas Party Committee chaired by Dee Brown did stellar work in bringing a little Christmas to families that need it. All the happenings and both kids Christmas parties had a lot of members help out, but I think that everyone should know of the great job done by Rick Jacobs, current Elk of the year, he's not resting he's working harder, also Alan Weidner for making the arrangements and helping to chauffeur Santa to the Lodge in a fire truck. All the kids were thrilled when Santa arrived. It brought back memories for me that when I was a kid Santa would ride a fire truck thru our town giving out candy and presents, just an all around couple of great days. Not to forget Barb Grube for decorating the lounge and entrance hallway, it really has a Christmas look to it. Brian Smith and Chris Grube did a great job putting lights on the Lodge Christmas Tree in the lounge, they had it ready and looking good for the Trim-A-Tree party, another good night for friendship and fraternity. There were so many members that volunteered their time to all these events that I can't list them all, but thank you. Moving on the Lodge continues to do well and there is still a lot going on, Sunday football and Friday night food along with the fisherman's daily four o'clock get together in the lounge. You're always welcome to stop in, lend a hand, or swap a story. There is an issue going on and while it is addressed in another article in the Antlers, I want to briefly touch on it. Our floating docks and pilings along with the old bulkhead are nearing the end of their useful life, rebuilding or building new are going to be a considerable cost to the Lodge, the Trustees have been grappling with this problem for the last weeks and are asking for input from the members. They are asking for the members help in resolving this real tough issue, it is the way a Lodge is supposed to do it, with the members deciding what is best for the Lodge, and the Trustees should be commended for both asking for the members help and for looking forward and trying to solve a problem proactively. It's a tough issue asking for members who are boat slip holders to have their slip rental fee increase, it is a hard thing to do, and as we are Brothers and Sisters, that just makes it that much harder. I don't want to get into the details, but everyone should know that throughout these emotional discussions everyone has conducted themselves as Ladies, Gentlemen, and true Elks. I'm sure that whatever decisions are made, all will continue to act accordingly. I didn't really know how to address this issue, but I thought I should at least mention it, because we all have a stake in the final decision.

I want to wish all of you both a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday. *Fraternally, Dave*



Congratulations !!

To Lea Maxwell, daughter of Chris and Barb Grube and Shawn Mahan, grandson of Steve and Eileen Mahan for also receiving Elks legacy scholarships from the State Association. They join Katelyn Pennestri daughter of Rick and Mariette Pennestri in receiving legacy scholarships for this year.

Lodge Hosts Vineland Vets For Army-Navy Game

Submitted by Joe Kelly, Lodge National Veterans Service, Committee Chairman

On Saturday December 6th our Lodge hosted 14 Veterans and 7 Staff from the NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland for the Army-Navy game. We also had 3 Vets from right here in Brigantine and 1 Vet from Deptford, NJ join us. Mayor Phil Guenther welcomed the Veterans and thanked them for their service to our country. After the flag ceremony presented by American Legion Post 396 Color Guard, the Vets were served lunch and watched the Army/Navy Game. A dinner consisting of shrimp cocktail, prime rib, crab-cakes, baked potato, and string beans, was served to the Veterans at 5:00PM. After dessert (Stock's pound cake and ice cream) it was time to say farewell. Each Veteran received a "Goodie" bag containing a framed photo of their visit to the lodge, along with home made cookies, a thank you card and a gift certificate (\$25.00) for use at the commissary. The hours spent among our visiting Veterans were the most rewarding, fulfilling, and happy moments I have ever spent at our Lodge. Thank you to the members of the Lodge National Veterans Service Committee and the numerous volunteers who helped to make this day so special.

* * *

On Thursday December 11th, 12 members of our Lodge along with members from the VFW and the American Legion made our annual Christmas visit to the NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland. We exchanged Christmas greetings and provided gift bags to many of the Vets. We also delivered 3 color TV's for use at the Home. Our purpose is to bring some Christmas Cheer to our Veterans but invariably it is we who leave there uplifted by the courage and good will of our Vets. You are most Welcome to join us.

* * *

On Monday January 12, 2009., [6:00PM] the Lodge National Veterans Service Committee will hold a planning meeting for 2009. We are going to host Veterans to our Lodge for a Flag Day (June 14, 2009) "Day at the Bay". Arrangements for the Vets to go fishing and or go to the beach are being developed. Budget and fund raising issues will also be discussed. Please consider joining the Lodge National Veterans Service Committee—We need your help. Thank you.



Above left: 12 members of the lodge joined Legion and VFW members at the Vineland Veterans home on Dec. 11th. Above right: ER Dave Biggins and lodge Veterans Committee Chairman Paul Kelly visit Marge "The Sarge" McLaughlin in Vineland.



2009 Wildwood Convention T-Shirts On Sale Now
No Pockets \$10, Pockets \$12.50. Order form is posted in the lounge.
Thanks for your support.



Remembering Our Departed Members

On December 7, 2008 at our annual Memorial Service, our lodge said goodbye to Richard "Boomer" Blair, Jules Daniels, Gary Hutchinson, Richard "Dick" O'Neil, Walter Huntridge, Bernard "Bernie" Kane Jr., Gary McHugh, Edward "Prune" Pullman, and Ronald Zipfel.

Rest in Peace, Brothers. Laura Grentz, Chairwoman

Friday Night Food

This past New Years Eve we had over 260 people attend a great party. The main reason for the success of the NYE party was the music of The Bstreet Band. We were ready to do it again this year but the band is booked (if you can believe it someone is getting married that night). That does not mean we can't have a party. After going back & forth with the band we settled on 11/29/08 which is the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Tickets will be \$50.00 & include beer, wine, soda and a buffet dinner. The food will be prepared and served by our members so I will need your HELP HELP & MORE HELP. Look for sign up sheet in the lounge. At \$50 this is a great deal & I guarantee a good time. Tickets will be available 10/1 at the lounge or rvotta@richardsonair.com or 266-0587. Tables will be reserved for parties of six or more.

Friday Night Dinner Committee

Submitted by Nancy Muncer

Friday Night Food are still serving up some great meals at a reasonable price, but just like the Marine Corps we are looking for a few good cooks. Cooking for a Friday Night at the Elks can be a lot of fun. Get a few of your friends together as your crew and join the list of volunteers to step into the kitchen. Also, if you are a boat slip holder or someone on the boat slip waiting list, did you know that your can receive volunteer hours for cooking baking or simply washing dishes on Friday night?

The menus for all of January are not yet complete, so continue to check the board in the lounge for details or show up on Friday nights and be pleasantly surprised. On Jan. 9, Toni Harris is creating Baked Potato Bar to go along with a meatloaf dinner. A variety of toppings will be available, so don't miss the date.

The second annual soup cook-off is tentatively set for February 20. Our first year we had about 13 chefs vying for the bragging rights. Eileen Mahan with her Cadillac crock pot and great chicken corn chowder won. Who will win this year.?

House Committee Activities

Do you like to play games? Are you interested in Bingo? The House Committee is considering a game day on Saturday or Sunday afternoon (or evening) when there isn't any NFL football. Bring your scrabble or Monopoly game, dominoes, chess or backgammon set, etc. Bring a guest if you'd like (but don't forget to sign your guest in). Also, the Committee is looking to try bingo at the bar on a weeknight FOR FREE, FOR FUN. Let Nancy Muncer know if you are interested and check the board in the Lounge for future details. Don't forget, we have a pool table, shuffleboard and ping pong.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Submitted by Nancy Tregnan, Trustee Chairperson

The trustees met on December 1, 2008. The Board reconsidered and approved a House Committee request for two hand driers for the banquet room at a cost of \$970. Our appreciation goes to Brian Smith for offering to install the equipment at no cost to the lodge. At the same trustee meeting, there was consideration and discussion of a formula to increase boat slip fees. Although the Lodge By-Laws empower the trustees to set the boat slip fees, it was decided to present this plan in the form of a motion at the December 9 membership meeting. This was done in order to provide our members the opportunity to give their input on the matter. There was a very productive discussion at the meeting and, in the interest of time, it was decided that the trustees would devote their January 6, 2009 meeting to provide more time for further discussion of the topic before the trustees reach a final decision. All members who would like to participate and share their opinions are invited to attend. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm on January 6, 2009.

Important Message Pertaining To Boat Slips

Dear Members, The following is information that all Elks of Lodge 2428 should have and be aware of the potential financial impacts. As part of the preparation for the annual boat slip mailing, the Trustee's reviewed the need for maintenance to the pilings, floating docks and bulkhead in the future. After some discussion, it was determined that a reserve account should be established as part of the 2009 Budget. This reserve account would be held separate and would only be used for repair/replacement expenses to the pilings, floating docks and bulkheads.

Based on estimates provided by Jersey Devils Piling Co., the cost when needed to remove the existing floating docks along with the pilings and to replace the pilings and floating docks within the same footprint would cost **approximately \$178,000**. Some may say this estimate is high but keep in mind it does not allow for inflation between now and the actual work. At the time of work, additional bids would be requested to assure the best overall deal. The Marina was built in 1987 and the useful life of the various components of the Marina will be upon us over the next five to ten years. The Boat Slips are a major asset to the club in both value added to the property and a source of revenue each year, therefore we have a responsibility to maintain them accordingly. In order to partly fund this reserve account the Trustees are recommending an increase in the boat slip rates for 2009.

The Bulkhead is another cost we need to realistically address over this same period of time. Possibly timely maintenance to the existing bulkhead would extend its useful life and spread the cost over an additional time frame.

The Bulkhead is a requirement of the total property and should be the responsibility of all members of the club. A contribution to the reserve account from some source other than boat slip fees needs to be considered. Additionally, the Mortgage currently has five more years to payout, at which time some percentage of the current mortgage payment could be factored into the monthly reserve contribution.

The need for a reserve account is to help position us to address these expenditures in the near future. Please join us at the **meeting on January 6 at 7PM** so all voices are heard on this very important issue. Thank you, Paul Consorte.



Brigantine Lodge 2428 held its annual Holiday party for children of lodge members on Dec. 14. Pictured left is Mike Riordan, who sang songs with the children. Pictured right is Santa himself (a.k.a. Steve Mahan) with one of the lucky children. Thanks to party organizers Terry and Lenny Kachur for another great job.



Americanism Essay Contest

The Americanism contest sponsored by our Lodge was a great success as we had many entries from the Brigantine school Children this year. Joanne DeLaney and Donna Fulmer did a great job putting together the awards banquet which was attended by Mayor Guenther and many other City officials. The highlight of the evening was a tribute to Principal Gussie, who is retiring from the North Middle School in December; there were very few dry eyes in the room as our Lodge said goodbye to our good friend. We did however give him an invitation to join our Lodge. The winners read their essays and the other essays were on display, it must have been very difficult for the judges to pick the winners.

Members who requested E-Mail delivery, at some point this month we are hoping to go through a dry run of our E-Mail delivery system, so you may receive this Antlers newsletter a second time.

Sickness and Distress: Allyson Arnold is handling the sending of care packages, flowers, fruit baskets, etc. to any Elk who is sick or in distress. Please let her know as soon as possible if you know of someone who is in need of our help. Reach her at home at 266-1940, and feel free to leave a message. Her work number at the Beach Cab is 266-TAXI (8294).

Special Needs Children's Christmas Party

On Friday December 19, 2008 our Lodge hosted the annual Special Children's Christmas Party in the banquet room. There was lots of excitement and enthusiasm as the kids waited for Santa to arrive. Everyone was enjoying food and Christmas music when all of a sudden there came wailing sirens from outside, the side doors flew open, and who was there on a big shiny fire truck but good old Saint Nick. The kids swarmed Santa as he came in and tried to make his way to his chair. As everyone settled in Santa took time to talk to every child and then gave them a personalized present donated by members, who picked the kids envelopes off the Christmas tree in the Lounge. How nice is it that members (some repeating with the same kids year after year) take the time and make the financial commitment to go out and buy the presents that these have asked for. Thanks to Chairwoman Dee Brown and her committee along with Alan Weidner, the Brigantine Fire Dept. and all the members who contributed, with a special thanks to Steve Mahan as you know who. PS. Steve also was you know who at the Elks Children's Christmas Party.

Elks National Foundation 50/50 Drawing -- The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Frank Deangelis, a member from the Lodge who lives here in Brigantine. Frank's winnings were Two Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars, which was the biggest prize ever awarded from this 50/50. Frank was so nice to donate back to the Lodge Four Hundred Dollars from the total. The funds raised go to our Lodge's ENF per capita which Grand Lodge sets, and expects every Lodge to meet or exceed. The money raised goes to all of the programs that Grand Lodge sponsors, including as I'm sure all of you know, the second largest scholarship program in the country behind only the U.S. government.

The Bad news and the Good news!

The bad news is that the grant we applied for from the Elks National Foundation to purchase beach wheelchairs for Children was rejected by the foundation. The good news, and its very good news, is that Rick Votta, his family, and a small group of members put on the Holiday party with the B-Street Band. Together with the raffle to go to the taping of the Jim Cramer "Mad Money" TV show, the Lodge has raised enough money to insure that our Lodge will be able to purchase the wheelchairs for the 2009 summer season. What a great job by Rick and his band to be proactive in not waiting to see how the grant turned out, but stepping in and making sure the funds would be there for the chairs. The list of the grants awarded to all the Lodges across the country is posted in the lounge. Personally, after going down the list I think we had a stone cold winner, but I wasn't judging. I know I learned a lot about how to submit and push thru a grant request to the Grand Lodge. If any members have any suggestions on community projects that we could submit for a grant to benefit our island, please contact me so we could get started on the 2009 application. It is a long process and the longer we give Tonia Harris to prepare our application the better, and more professional it will be.

Please, Please, Please

Get the Lodge your E-Mail address; it will greatly simplify communication within the Lodge. Also if you could update your phone numbers, and add your cellular phone numbers. Thanks in advance. -- Exalted Ruler Dave Biggins.

Lodge E-mail address: HFMIII2428GEG@verizon.net

Phone number: (609) 266-9826 **Lodge mailing address:**

Brigantine Elks Lodge #2428400 West Shore Drive, Brigantine, NJ 08203

Mark the Date -- The Brigantine Lodge will be going up to Camp Moore on April 24th thru 26th to get it open and ready for the kids. We will be part of the group going up from the South District. There is no cost, transportation and meals will be provided. A sign up board will be posted in the Lounge after the New Year.

The Cub Scouts will meet at the Lodge the 2nd Thursday of every month. Put it in your calendar to avoid scheduling conflicts!