



Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks

HIGHTSTOWN LODGE #1955



December, 2017 NEWSLETTER

Brothers and Sisters,

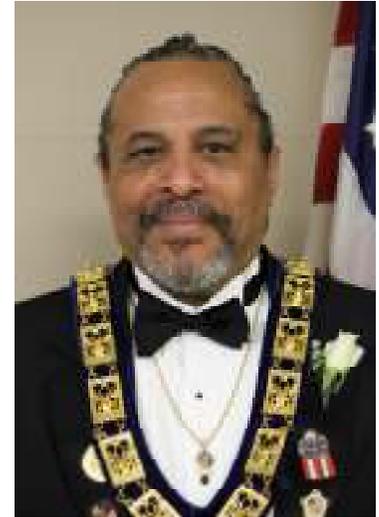
First off let me say, my apologies for the lapse of newsletters. It has been a hectic time for me but I think it is over now.

We made it thru the summer and heading into cooler weather. Fall Conference was good and informative and fun. We still have plenty of good times ahead and it would be a good thing to see more of you out here with us working, and playing together.

We just had the Veterans thanksgiving dinner and the Special children's party and they were both done with pride and pleasure. There were plenty of helpers which made the functions go off without a hitch. We have the breakfast with Santa coming up soon and the lodge holiday party which can only be great. Come on down and see, or, better yet, be a part of it. Also make sure you get your new access card for the lodge, the old card will not work the door. Email, text or call Pat for instructions on getting yours.

Please, come down and join us, have a few laughs and partake in the comradery, share a few refreshments with friends, I dare you.

Fraternally and sincerely,
Crispus Huling, Exalted Ruler



Exalted Ruler Crispus Huling

Officers for 2017-2018

Exalted Ruler	Cris Huling
Leading Knight	Lou Gamba, PER
Loyal Knight	Sandee D'Abbraccio
Lecturing Knight	Debbie Obst
Esquire	Anthony D'Abbraccio
Tiler	Meaghan Benci
Inner Guard	Lori Kelty
Chaplain	Stacey Sanchez
Secretary	Pat O'Brien
Treasurer	Bill Lawler
1 Year Trustee	Luella Scott, PER
2 Year Trustee	Donna Vogt, PER
3 Year Trustee	John Sanchez, PER
4 Year Trustee	Rich Bloemeke
5 Year Trustee	Tim Byrne

**110 Hickory Corner Road East Windsor, NJ 08520
609-448-9794**

Regular business meetings are the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8pm (except in July, August & December).
The Board of Directors, the House Committee, and the Lodge Activities Committee meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Committee Chairs for 2017-2018

Audit & Accounting Bob O'Brien

Activities Debbie Obst

Blood Drives Lori Kelty/ Tom McGeachen
Drug Awareness Wayne Varga
ENF Bob O'Brien
Government Relations John Sanchez
Public Relations Mark Nebbia
Special Children Steve Drake
Youth Activities Tim Byrne
Scholarship Terry Pycior
Boy Scouts John Nieradka
Batter Up Tim Byrne
Hoop Shoot Tim Byrne
Soccer Shoot Tim Byrne

Fraternal Debbie Obst

Americanism Lori Bernas
Army of Hope Luella Scott
Convention Pat O'Brien
Elks Memorial Service Pat O'Brien
Flag Day John Nieradka
Member Indoctrination Pat O'Brien
Member Investigation Cris Huling / John Sanchez
Membership Recruitment Sandee D'Abbraccio
Member Retention Sandee D'Abbraccio
Nat'l Veterans' Service Jeff Bernas
Parade Pat O'Brien
Visiting/Birthdays Bob O'Brien

Board of Directors Cris Huling / Donna Vogt

Accident Prevention Tim Byrne
Bar Manager Maria MacLean
Booking Manager Maria MacLean

Major Events

Fish Frydays Ken MacLean / Pat O'Brien
Comedy Night Lori Kelty
Derby Day Jim Dailey
Flea Market Anthony & Sandee D'Abbraccio
Cigar & Swig Bob O'Brien
Massage & Martini Donna Vogt
Super Bowl Sunday Pat O'Brien
Paint & Sip Pat O'Brien
Murder Mysteries Maria MacLean

Elks Book Club (ENF) Bob O'Brien / Donna Vogt

PER Association Donna Vogt

Webmaster Rodger Lippman
Newsletter Editor Bob O'Brien

December Meetings

*Monday, Dec. 4th - Annual DDGER Pre-visit
(7:30PM)*

*Tuesday, Dec. 5th - Lodge Regular Business Meeting
& Annual DDGER Official Visit
(Hall 8:00PM)*

*Tuesday, Dec. 12th - Lodge Board of Directors Meeting
(Bar 7:00PM)*

Tuesday, Sept. 19th - NO BUSINESS MEETING !!!

*Tuesday, Dec. 19th - Elks Book Club
(Better Beginnings 5:30PM)*

All Lodge Meetings are in this color.

All Special Events are in this color.

All District Meetings are in this color.



Hey Members! Check out our
Lodge website at www.elks1955.org

Webmaster—Rodger Lippman



We're on Twitter

Keep up with the latest happenings at
Hightstown Lodge by following [@elks1955](https://twitter.com/elks1955).



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

REMINDER!!!

Every Lodge event must be approved by the
Lodge Activities Committee and the House
Committee prior to scheduling. Make sure you
allow enough time to come before the
Committees. If you'll need a Cash Advance,
remember it must be voted on at a business meeting
before the event!



WE'RE BACK!!!

After a brief (year-long?!) hiccup, you can
expect monthly newsletters once more—but we
need you to make it worthwhile. All submissions
are due no later than the 25th of each month,
please email them to

hightstownelks@gmail.com.



A Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler Hon. Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr.

Embrace charity and compassion this holiday season Christmas is certainly a time to visit family, socialize with friends, cook delicious meals, and shop for the perfect gift, but we must also remember the true spirit of the holiday. As Dr.

Seuss famously wrote in the story of the Grinch, "Maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more."

For Elks, Christmas means a lot more. It's the ideal time to put my theme of "Strengthening Elkdom Through Community Awareness" into practice and showcase the hope and charity that Elks have given throughout the past 150 years. There are many ways Lodges can give back to those who are alone or struggling this Christmas season, such as adopting a family in need of a warm meal or winter coat, donating gifts to children whose families can't afford presents under the tree, or visiting with veterans who don't have loved ones. Be sure to spread the word of your charitable efforts through your membership—I'm confident you'll receive a positive response and many helping hands.

In addition, as you attend social events at your Lodges this holiday, remember to be kind and compassionate to one another. While the holidays are a fun and easygoing time for some, they can be difficult for others. It is our duty as Elks to extend the same help to each other as we do to our friends outside the Order. From our house to yours, Pat and I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy holiday season and New Year. We hope you all find a way to grow your hearts three sizes this Christmas.

See you in 2018!



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

The new Elks year is in full swing, and some of you have already started doing your part by supporting ENF.

Our goals for the 2017-2018 are...

1. **Meet the GER and State President per-capita goals** (\$4.65 and \$5.75 respectively)
2. **A Lodge-Wide Giving Goal of \$2500**
3. **A Member Participation Rate of 20%**

To date, our Lodge-wide giving amounts to **\$728** (a per-capita amount of **\$4.26**). This amount has been cumulatively donated by a mere **9.4%** of our membership. So... we're almost at the GER per-capita goal. We've got a bit more work to meet the State President's Goal, and a long way to go for our lodge-wide and participation targets.

How can you help? One of the best ways to contribute is to commit to a pledge of **\$10 a year for 10 years**. That's all it takes — less than 3 cents per day. You pay more in sales tax on your morning cup of coffee. You can go to enf.elks.org/donate and enter your pledge online. Have your membership card handy, and be sure to enter your Lodge and Member number so ENF can properly credit your participation to the Lodge. Or, if you prefer, you can send your donation to the Lodge (mark "attn ENF Chair") and we'll post it and ensure you are properly credited with ENF.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



2017-2018 DUES ARE LONG OVERDUE!

Annual dues, including per-capita assessments, for the current Elk Year are \$73.00. If you haven't paid yet, please do so ASAP!!!

For your convenience, regular members can pay via PayPal on our Lodge Website at www.elks1955.org. (A nominal processing fee of \$2.45 is added for PayPal transactions. (We're sorry that we can't handle Life Members via PayPal at this time.)

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you have not yet received your Dues Statement, please contact me at hightstownelks@gmail.com. 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 membership applications, they are available at the Lodge and in the office. Initiation fee is \$60.00 and the annual dues are \$73.00.

Yours in Elkdom,
Pat O'Brien, Lodge Secretary

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



Here's our October list of birthday celebrations:

Raymond Bates	Stephen Peters	John Perrine
John Patricolo	Luella Scott	Robert Tarantino
Robert Sobkowiak	Mark Lang	Keith McDaid

Here's our November list of birthday celebrations:

Rich Lonsdorf	Phil White	Norman Moser
Rita Carr	Paul Weiner	Betty Nolan
Stacey Sanchez	Mary Kiensicki	Tom McGeachen
Raymond Smith	Andrew Maevesky	Chris VanWhy
Glenn VanWhy	Anthony D'Abbraccio	Vinnie Daidone
Maria MacLean	Donna Brunetti	Rich Gardner
John Nieradka	Pat O'Brien	

And here's our December birthday folks:

Frank Brown, Jr	Ralph Bradley	Helena List
Darren Feist	Ellen Frankel	Bill Lyons
Paul Goubeaud	John Limato	Meaghan Benci
Michael Stevenson	Bill Lawler	Emmanuel Sanon-Jules
Arthur Torgersen	John Henry	Rodney Coates
Cris Huling		

Look for your birthday card—and a gift from the Lodge—in the mail soon.

WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU!

The following members have not yet paid their 2017-2018 Elk Dues:

Daniel Allesandro
Edward M Conway
Darren Feist
William E Hogan
Michael J Licata
Phyllis Reddington
Alan J Setneska

Rodney R Coates
Danny J Dale
Richard Gardner
Mary Kiensicki
Helena T List
Devin Rubin
Joseph Underwood

Mary Beth Colvell
Michael J Falcone
Deborah A Hodul
Mark Lang
James M McCabe
Michelle J Rubino
Brian Vogt

If your name is on this list, and you think there's some mistake, please contact the Lodge Secretary Pat O'Brien at hightstownelks@gmail.com or call her direct at 609-384-5741 immediately!

If you know anyone on this list, and especially if you SPONSORED any of them, please reach out to them!

If the sole reason for their departure is financial, please ask them to contact Secretary Pat O'Brien. Hardship is handled with complete respect for privacy, and should never be a reason for leaving the Elks.

UPCOMING LODGE EVENTS

Be a part of your Lodge and come to these events!!

"LOADED" BURGER DINNER

Friday, December 8th at 6:00PM to 8:00PM

Come down and enjoy one (or two) of our famous "loaded burgers" prepared by Donna and Cris. \$5 gets you a burger with your choice of toppings and a side of chips. All proceeds will be donated to Elks National Foundation. This is a great way to get yourself ready for an exciting night of Trivia!

SENSELESS KNOWLEDGE - TRIVIA NITE

Friday, December 8th at 8:00PM

After enjoying your loaded burger, challenge your ability to recall all that fun, but generally useless knowledge that you've acquired over the years. Come down and find out if you're up to the challenge! \$3 per person to play. Lori Kelty is running the show this month.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Sunday, December 10th from 9:00AM till 1:00PM

Omelets, Pancakes, French Toast, Bacon, Sausage, Home Fries, Coffee, Tea, Juice and Cupcakes like all our breakfasts. Visit with Santa and enjoy a great breakfast. Get your picture taken with "the Man of the Season". Reservations encouraged; check email or see attached flyer for details.

HOLIDAY GET-TOGETHER

Friday, December 15th at 8:00PM

Come on down for an informal holiday party to wish all your Elk brothers and sisters a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Festivus, or whatever other seasonal holiday greeting you deem appropriate! No admission, but please bring some sort an appetizer, finger food, cookies, dessert, or whatever to share with your fellow Elks and guests.

SENSELESS KNOWLEDGE - TRIVIA NITE

Friday, January 12th, 2018 at 8:00PM

Challenge your ability to recall all that fun, but generally useless knowledge that you've acquired over the years. Come down and find out if you're up to the challenge! \$3 per person to play.

COUNTRY LINE DANCING

To Be Determined

We've had a few people express interest in a Country Line Dancing event at the Lodge — an opportunity for some folks to strut their stuff, and for others to learn how! If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please drop a line to us at hightstownelks@gmail.com. If enough people are interested, we'll make it happen!

**Just because we don't have a lot of "events" going on doesn't mean we're not around!
Come down to the Lodge any Friday night for some friendship and company!**

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!

HIGHTSTOWN ELKS LODGE #1955 PRESENTS

Breakfast with Santa



**Sunday, December 10th
9am to 1pm**

**Elks Lodge, 110 Hickory Corner Road, E.W.
(Next to Wawa)**

**\$11.00 per person, kids 6 to 12 \$5.00,
and under 6 free**

VISA and MasterCard Accepted

Reservations are strongly suggested

Contact SantaAtElks@gmail.com or **609-477-4108** to reserve your table.

FREE Wallet size photo of children with Santa.

Our breakfast features: Famous Omelet Station, Pancakes, French Toast,
Made to Order Egg Station, Eggs Benedict, Sausage, Bacon, Home Fries,
Fruit Plate, Coffee, Tea, Milk and Juice

Additional Photographs with Santa: \$5.00 for emailed jpg images.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
is a charitable organization
devoted to serving our community and our country. We
have numerous programs including those to benefit
special needs children, assisting our veterans and drug
awareness. We also provide numerous scholarship
opportunities for the youth of our community. For more
information please visit www.elks1955.org



Hightstown Elks Lodge #1955

Cordially invites you to attend

Valentine's

Casino Night

\$50.00 per person
includes \$500.00 in gaming currency
and 1 drink coupon

*Purchase tickets before February 1st
and receive additional \$200 in chips
at the door*

February 10th, 2018
6p.m. to 10 p.m.

Hightstown Elks Lodge
110 Hickory Corner Road
East Windsor, NJ 08520

For Tickets, Contact
John Sanchez at (609) 819-5673 or jfsanchez.emt@gmail.com

\$90.00 per couple
includes \$1200.00 in gaming currency
and 2 drink coupons

*Purchase tickets before February 1st
and receive additional \$500 in chips
at the door*

N.J.L.C.C. License Registration #269-6-5691
NJ Gaming Laws prohibit awarding Cash Prizes

The proceeds from this event will help Hightstown Elks fund its charitable activities, which provide youth scholarships, support American Veterans and families of active duty military, assist families with special needs children, and reach out to at-risk youth and families in need. Your support is greatly appreciated.