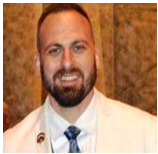


# CENTRAL DISTRICT NEWS

New Jersey Elks/May 1st 2020/ Volume 16, Issue 12



## VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LOOKING BACK ON THIS YEAR, I MUST SAY THAT IT WAS DEFINITELY A GREAT YEAR I WILL NEVER FORGET. I KNOW THE YEAR GOT HALTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC BUT WE DID AN AMAZING JOB IN OUR DISTRICT ONCE AGAIN. WE HAD MANY SUCCESSFUL EVENTS INCLUDING BATTERS UP, SOCCER SHOOT, HOOT SHOOT, SPECIAL CHILDREN'S CHARITY BALL AND MANY SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISERS WHICH RAISED A LOT OF MONEY FOR OUR COMMITTEES.

I WAS SO HAPPY AND PROUD TO BE VICE PRESIDENT THIS YEAR AND COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT ALL OF MY GREAT DISTRICT CHAIRS. YOU GUYS 100% MADE MY YEAR SO GREAT. I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH. I HAD A GREAT TIME ALSO WORKING ALONGSIDE DISTRICT DEPUTY JIM. I KNOW GOING FORWARD WITH VP ELECT JEFF AND DD DESIGNATE DANNY OUR DISTRICT IS GOING TO CONTINUE TO BE IN GOOD HANDS. THESE TWO GUYS ARE NO DOUBT ABOUT IT THE REAL DEAL AND I'M GLAD TO CALL THEM MY FRIENDS.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CONGRATULATE ALL THE NEW EXALTED RULERS AND LODGE OFFICERS. I KNOW THIS TIME PERIOD IS VERY HARD BUT WE WILL GET BACK TO NORMAL. KEEP WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES AND DOING THE GOOD THINGS THAT ELKS DO.

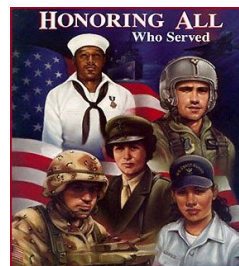
BIG THANKS TO FRANCIS, PETE, AND STEVE FOR A LOT OF HELP AND GUIDANCE THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THIS YEAR. I APPRECIATE IT AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU ALL IN THE FUTURE AND KEEPING THIS GOOD RIDE GOING.

TO OUR STATE SPONSOR PAST GRAND EXALTED RULER MALCOLM AND STATE PRESIDENT ANTHONY, I JUST WANT TO SAY THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK. IT WAS A PLEASURE WORKING WITH YOU BOTH THROUGHOUT THE COURSE THIS YEAR. I KNOW WE HAD A LOT OF FUN UP UNTIL CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES WITH THE PANDEMIC BUT I JUST WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON ALL THE GREAT DECISIONS YOU MADE FOR OUR STATE IN OUR MEMBERS. "GREAT JOB GENTLEMEN".

OF COURSE MEGHAN THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP THIS YEAR. YOU'RE A TRUE SUPERSTAR AND OUR ORGANIZATION IS SO LUCKY TO HAVE YOU. I AM SO APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR HARD WORK THAT YOU'VE NOT ONLY DONE FOR ME BUT FOR EVERYBODY AND THIS STATE. GOD BLESS YOU AND I WISH YOU LUCK IN YOUR UPCOMING YEAR AS VP ELECT OF YOUR DISTRICT.

AND OF COURSE MEMBERS JUST WANT TO SAY HOW MUCH I MISS SEEING ALL OF YOU. I TRULY DO MISS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU AND I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU GUYS AGAIN. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO KEEP ON BLESSING OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS, OUR VETERANS AND TROOPS, OUR SPECIAL CHILDREN AND OF COURSE THE CENTRAL DISTRICT AND OUR STATE ASSOCIATION. ALWAYS REMEMBER TO KEEP ON STRIVING TO BE THE BEST OF THE BEST.

FRATERNALLY,  
VP DAN



### INSIDE THE DISTRICT

DISTRICT LEADERS LIST OF  
DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS  
CHAIRPERSONS MESSAGES  
LODGES IN THE DISTRICT  
ER'S AND SECRETARY'S  
VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
DISTRICT DEPUTY MESSAGE

### DISTRICT LEADERS

FRANCIS J. DECIBUS PSDGER  
STEPHEN J. TERRIBLE PSP  
PETER D. SMITH PSP

### DISTRICT DIGNITARIES

DAN DeZaio VP  
732-887-7752

JIM KOPCHO DDGER  
732-5012279

PAT McDONNELL CDST  
732-985-2647

NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
SCOTT DUNHAM PER  
732-816-2140



Our State Project



## District Deputy Message , James A. Kopcho DDGER

I know this is not how the new Officers of the Central District expected to start the year, and as your DDGER this is not how I envisioned the end of my year. But we must stay home to protect our lives as well as our loved ones. This will come to an end and when it does, we must be ready to get back to the great works we (the Elks) are known for. Yes, we didn't have a celebration for the new officers and now our Wildwood convention has been cancelled, yet with God's blessings we all will live to see many more Installation of Officers and Wildwood conventions. So, for now we stay home and let this pandemic pass us by.

For all the new ERs, this is going to be a busy year for you but with the guidance of your PERs hopefully it will be a fun year. Rely on the PERs, rely on the new DDGER Dan Larsen and PDDs, rely on the ER round tables and most of all do not be afraid to ask questions. Nobody has all the answers and we are all here to help each other.

Though our lodges are closed to meetings and social affairs, lodge business must go on. Bills must be paid; the Trustees must keep the building and grounds in good shape for when the restrictions are lifted. We must do business via conference calls, but detailed records must be kept with regards to lodge business. During this shutdown our Secretary's and Treasurer's have been working, our secretaries have been sending out and receiving dues for this Elk year. The Treasurers have been paying bills and dealing with the Financial Report System (FRS) which is now mandatory. I also learned that the Grand Lodge (GL) would fine lodges (\$100.00 per month) that are not in compliance, so get your FRS up to date. Remember, if your FRS is completed by mid-May, the GL will accept it as last year's Transmittal Letter (Audit). You will still need to hire an Accountant to file your required tax returns.

Let us hope we can hold Flag Day and that the GL convention will be held as well.

Congratulations once again to all the new ERs and the returning ERs. Have a good year and remember I am only a phone call away, should you need me.

I cannot wait to see you all, but for now, Stay Safe and Stay Home.

May God protect our Troops, First Responders, Doctors, Nurses and our members and especially God Bless America.

Fraternally,  
James Kopcho, DDGER

# District Newsletter & Calendar, Scott Dunham PER

Hi All

To our chairpersons 2019-2020 great job in your year and to our new chairpersons look forward to working with you.

New Chairs please note you have a monthly message for the newsletter which is due by the 25th of each month. If you have any questions please email me.

As always thanks for your help  
Scott

## District Chairpersons

Americanism– Mike Green PER, South Amboy, 732-559-7298  
Army of Hope– Alexandra Helly PER, Carteret, 732-762-6872  
Auditing and Business Practice– Sam Fisher PER, New Brunswick, 732-236-5520.  
CLMS-Rita Massimi PDD, Piscataway, 908-966-3242  
Convention-Debbie Czech PVP, South Plainfield, 732-491-5310  
Drug Awareness– Dennis Kopik PVP, South Amboy, 732-429-5609  
Government Relations– Jack Harkins PER, Piscataway, 908-487-3544  
Hoop Shoot– Rich Recine PVP, Piscataway, 732-433-6645  
Lodge Activities– George Michael's PER, East Brunswick, 609-802-2182  
Membership and Membership Retention-Kevin Krasnansky PER, 908-625-2718  
National Foundation– Joe Massimi PDD Piscataway, 732-885-1592  
National Services Veterans-Jeff Van Woeart PER, Carteret, 908-380-1592  
Parades-Doug Pearson, PER, Edison, 732-985-9829  
Public Relations– Dan Larsen PER, Watchung Hills, 908-752-0071  
Ritual Judy Galambos PER, Woodbridge, 732-319-7481  
Scholarship– Christine Sauer PER, South Plainfield, 732-672-9820  
Soccer Maureen Chapman, Piscataway, 732-236-7296  
Special Children-Harry Newton PDD, Piscataway, 908-722-7236  
Training - Betty Bellance PDD, Carteret, 908-917-3166  
Youth Activities – Carol Bonura PVP, New Brunswick, 732-991-8979  
Youth Tournament-Pat McDonnell, PVP, Carteret, 732-985-2647  
District Author on Internet and Newsletter-Scott Dunham, PER, Edison, 732-816-2140

## **District Youth Activities Committee , Carol Bonura PVP**

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak our last two committee meetings were cancelled. I will be holding a Zoom meeting and all lodge chairs will be notified of the date and time. I would like to "Thank" all the lodge chairs for their hard work and help during the past Elk year. John Gaven from the Metuchen Lodge #1914 will be the District Youth Activities Chair for 2020-2021 and I wish him a successful year.

Stay safe and healthy.

Fraternally,  
Carol Bonura, PVP  
Central District YAC Chair

## **District CLMS Committee , Rita Massimi PDD**

Central District Secretaries - I hope this note finds you and yours healthy and safe.

After your officers are installed, and if you haven't already done so, please update CLMS to include some of the following:

In the settings tab of CLMS2Web, click on Lodge Information and make sure your new ER and/or Secretary are displayed.

Ensure PER listing is correct and, if not, make changes as appropriate.

Confirm your officers and committee assignments.

Please make sure all your charitable information is input to ensure you can submit your final report by April 15th.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. Stay Safe!

Fraternally, Rita Massimi, PDD  
Central District and State CLMS Chair

## **District Lodge Activities Committee , George Michaels PER**

We are sure that the unfortunate events of recent have held down some of the participation that may have normally happened. Thanks to all of you who participated in the various lodge award contests. For those of you who were unable to partake in the competition this year, well, as the old Brooklyn Dodgers used to say, "Wait till next year."

As the old expression went, 'stay tuned,' and we will be letting you know about judging and results.

Happy to have worked with all of you, and especially wish to send thanks to VP Dan DeZaio, PVP and Region I Lodge Activities Chair Dennis Kopek, and to State Chair PDDGER Ed Hahn. Looking forward to a healthy new Elks year.

George Michaels PER  
District Chairman

## District ENF Committee , Joe Massimi PDD



This message is from Elks National Foundation Headquarters.

Fraternally,

Joe Massimi, PDD

Central District ENF Chair

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we're now experiencing a new normal together. In a few short weeks, everything has changed. And, the Community Investments Program must change this year, too. The new CIP grant year, set to open on April 1, will likely be delayed to June 1, for all grant components except the Gratitude Grant.

With an increasing number of States under shelter-in-place mandates, and many others following the CDC and WHO guidelines—and with the health and wellbeing of Elks communities paramount—we must press pause and let the dust settle before we jump back in to project planning on any scale. With the ability to donate funds to a charitable organization, the Gratitude Grant offers eligible Lodges the perfect opportunity to make a difference when and where it's needed most.

Normally, if a Lodge proposed to donate its Gratitude Grant to another organization, we'd ask to consider a more active use of the funds. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, we're adapting that approach this year. If a Lodge proposes to use a Gratitude Grant for an active project to take place in the next few months, we're going to have a lot of questions about feasibility. Instead, we'll encourage Lodges to think about donating to food pantries or other organizations in the community that are better equipped to directly serve the populations in need as we work our way through this pandemic.

Here are a few causes that could benefit from a Gratitude Grant donation. Your Lodge may identify others. You know your community best.

**Feed the Community: Food Banks**

As people find themselves unemployed or underemployed, local food banks and food pantries will feel the strain and will have an increased need for donations and supplies. The need will be great and the opportunity to positively and immediately impact the Lodge community is greater. Visit Feeding America to find your local food bank or food pantry.

**The Frontline: Healthcare Workers**

We all need to do our part to #FlattenTheCurve so that hospitals and healthcare workers can continue to do theirs. Hospitals—including V.A. hospitals, medical centers and nursing homes—may find themselves in short supply of life-saving equipment. Consider donating directly to hospitals in your area that may be working tirelessly to combat this pandemic. If your Lodge focuses on veterans, consider donating directly to a VA hospital that caters to this population in need during this time.

The American Red Cross has also published an excellent resource on medical preparedness for individuals and their communities.

**People Experiencing Homelessness**

Support homeless shelters and assistance programs. For those who don't have anywhere safe to go, this time is even more difficult. Consider donations to programs that will help vulnerable veterans during this time.

Delaying the launch of the other Lodge grants until at least June 1 will allow us to assess the needs of our communities and figure out the best ways for Elks to help. This may include loosening or reconfiguring grant guidelines prior to the June 1 launch.

We will get through this together. Elks have always shown a tremendous amount of caring, sharing, and grit, and now is no different. As always, the CIP is here to help showcase that #ElksAlwaysCare.

## **District Scholarship Committee , Christine Sauer PER**

### Scholarship News

Due to the ongoing health pandemic there are some adjustments to timelines for both the NJ Elks Vocational Scholarship and the NJ Elks Family Scholarship programs.

### NJ Elks Vocational Scholarship

The deadline has been extended from May 15 to June 15, 2020. Please keep promoting this scholarship. As a reminder if any applications are received at your lodge, they must be forwarded to the Scholarship District Chair.

### NJ Elks Family Scholarship

The deadline has been extended from April 15 to June 30, 2020. The lodge secretary then has till July 30th to forward said applications to the Scholarship Region 2 Co-Chair Art Andreano. Judging will be mid August and notification to the applicants will occur by August 24th. Requested info from applicants must be returned to the State Chair by September 30th. Transcripts that are requested can be official or unofficial. Checks will start to be issued by October 15, 2020.

### MVS News

In the Central District, we had 12 Boys and 12 Girls advance to the State level. There were 24 National finalists from New Jersey; unfortunately, none of the National finalists were from the Central District.

As the next months ensue, there might be additional changes. During these difficult times, I wish you all well and hope that you and yours stay safe and healthy.

Fraternally,

Christine Sauer PER

District Chair, Scholarships

## **District Soccer shoot Committee , Maureen Chapman**

As we all are all trying to deal with the coronavirus, we have not been able to have our last meeting for the year & I have not been able to present the NJ State Soccer Shoot trophy for the district with the highest score, something I take a lot of pride in since I know how hard our district works. I would like to present it at the first meeting once we can all meet again.

As I will be Exalted Ruler for Piscataway Lodge this year, Jack Harkins will be taking over as the Central District Soccer Shoot Chair. I wish him all the best as I know the lodge chairs will be there to help him (I will still be around to help as well). I want to thank everyone for their support these past 6 years as I've enjoyed being your Central District Soccer Shoot Chair. It was great working with all of you & I know we will all be working together again soon.

I also hope everyone is continuing to be safe in these unprecedented times. I pray that we will all be together again soon enjoying one another's company. Stay safe & be well.

Fraternally,

Maureen Chapman

Central District Soccer Shoot Chairperson

## District Lodge information

### **Carteret #2235**

233 Roosevelt Ave, phone 732-541-2880  
Meetings 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:30pm  
ER Mike Kelly, Sec Patricia Golino

### **Colonia #2282**

855 Middlesex Tpke, phone 732-382-2282  
Meetings 3rd Thursdays 8pm  
ER Richard Joyce, Sec Eileen Parks

### **East Brunswick #2370**

21-B Oakmont Ave, phone 732-821-9527  
Meetings 1st & 3rd Thursdays 8pm  
ER Jennifer Hammill, Sec Anne Marie Brucato

### **Edison #2487**

375 Old Post Rd, phone 732-985-2487  
Meetings 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:30pm  
ER Richard J Philips, Sec Ron Hayes

### **Metuchen #1914**

87 Middlesex Ave. Rt. 27, phone 732-494-3557  
Meetings 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 7:30pm  
ER Gail Firkser, Sec Maryann Slater

### **New Brunswick #324**

40 Livingston Ave, phone 732-249-3420  
Meetings 1st & 3rd Thursdays 7:30pm  
ER Elsie Isaacson, Sec Sherri Novak

### **Piscataway #2414**

450 River Road, phone 732-356-9827  
Meetings 1st & 3rd Thursdays 8pm  
ER Maureen Chapman, Sec Riti Massimi

### **South Amboy #784**

601 Washington Ave, phone 732-727-7170  
Meetings 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 7:30pm  
ER Ginger Olszowski, Sec Mary Partricia Kall

### **South Plainfield #2298**

1254 New Market Rd, phone 908-668-9750  
Meetings 1st & 3rd Thursdays 8pm  
ER David Lewis, Sec Sandi Smith

### **Watchung Hills #885**

1 Elks Trail, phone 908-668-9727  
Meetings 1st & 3rd Thursdays 8pm  
ER David Lewis, Sec Paul D Lowell

### **Woodbridge #2116**

665 Rahway Avenue, phone 732-634-2116  
Meetings 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 7:30pm  
ER Karen Imperatrice, Sec Paula Kopcho

## District Membership Committee, Kevin Krasnansky PER

Hi all,

I just want to wish all the best in this troubled times. Right now most of us are not really worried about our membership for our lodges. This is understandable but just keep this in mind if we know any friends or family members which showed interest could have a great toll in our lodges. I would like to wish all the new Exalted Rulers the best of luck on this year to come. I'm sure you won't forget your term. I would also like to ask that you could send me all the membership chairs Emails address. I thank you

Kevin Krasnansky,PER  
District chair

## **District Veterans Committee, Jeff Van Woeart PER**

I hope everyone is safe and healthy during these trying times. As you are all aware our veterans homes are closed to visitors due to covid 19 and the death tolls are staggering. We stay in touch with the homes through our VAVS Reps Pdd George Yusko and PVP Carol Bonura. The district is also on hold moving homeless veterans and supplying welcome home kits. But the Elks State commission found a sponsor to help with feeding veterans living on the street.

I would like to congratulate Sal Malinconico of New Brunswick #324 as our new District Veterans chair.  
good luck Sal and I look forward to working with you

Jeff Van Woeart PER  
District Veteran chair

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### **Around the Lodges in the District**

#### *Citizen of the Year*

George Yusko, Edison

Nancy Mullins, Woodbridge

Tom Slater, Metuchen

Diane Pein, Piscataway

#### *Elk and Officer of the Year by Lodge*

Elk of the Year Tina Bartko and Officer of the year Kitty Cox, Edison

Elk of the year Karen DeZaio and Officer of the year Michael Walsh, Metuchen

Elk of The Year is Megan Hayes and Officer of The Year is our Sandy Erik Per, New Brunswick

Due to the lodges not having their installations at this time the rest of the recipients will be named at a later date.