# Fall Conference Business Session Agenda

**Monmouth Ballroom**

## Saturday, November 14th, 2026

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| **8:30 AM** | Meeting called to order by State President Donald Tonachio, Lacey Lodge #2518 | |

### Introductions

**John R. Optiz Jr., State President MD/DE/DC State Association, Abingdon Lodge #2354**

**Kris A. Benedict, State President Pennsylvania State Association, West Shore-Harrisburg Lodge #2257**

**Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., Past Grand Exalted Ruler, NJ State Elks Assn. State Sponsor, Lyndhurst Lodge #1505**

**Timothy F. Jaeger, Grand Exalted Ruler, Napa, California Lodge #832**

***Escorted by James Cantwell, State Sergeant At Arms***

| **8:36 AM** | **Invocation** | |
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| | Melanie Pasquarelli, State Chaplain | |
| | Presentation of Colors | Lacey Lodge #2518 |
| | Pledge of Allegiance | Charles Stecher, Americanism Chairperson |
| | National Anthem | Diane Lovato, Nutley Lodge #1290 |
| | Retiring of Colors | Lacey Lodge #2518 |

| **8:42 AM** | **Introduction of Grand Lodge Officers and Committeemen** | |
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| | Peggy Berry, Grand Lodge Ritual, Asbury Park/Wall Lodge #128 | |
| | Joyce Powell, Grand Lodge Public Relations, Hasbrouck Heights Lodge #1962 | |
| | Meghan McPherson, Grand Lodge Auditing & Business Practices, Lyndhurst Lodge #1505 | |
| | Victoria Watson, Grand Lodge Fraternal, Millville Lodge #580 | |
| **8:45 AM** | Word of Welcome: Katherine Lumia, Exalted Ruler Long Branch Lodge #742 | |
| **8:46 AM** | Roll Call of Officers | Sue Dupas, State Secretary |
| **8:49 AM** | Reading of the Minutes of Previous Session | Sue Dupas, State Secretary |
| **8:50 AM** | Secretary's Report | Sue Dupas, State Secretary |
| **8:52 AM** | Treasurer's Report | Kenneth Low, State Treasurer |
| **8:54 AM** | Trustees' Report | Betty Bellanca, Chairperson |
| **8:56 AM** | Preliminary Report on Credentials | Barbara Monti |

### Reports of Committees

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| **8:58 AM** | Convention | Maureen Whalen |
| **9:00 AM** | TAM (Techniques of Alcohol Management) | Barbara Monti |
| **9:02 AM** | Youth Activities | Anthony Perrone |
| **9:06 AM** | Antlers | Tom Boyce |
| **9:08 AM** | Hoop Shoot | Robert Sorenson |
| **9:10 AM** | Soccer Shoot | Michael Walsh |
| **9:12 AM** | Youth Tournament | Hank Bedlivy |
| **9:14 AM** | Training | Mark Dunnder |

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| **9:16 AM** | Special Children | Arleen Hickman |
| **9:18 AM** | Elks Camp Moore Board of Trustees | Vince Ditta |
| **9:20 AM** | Challenger Sports Program | Jessica Schoener |
| **9:22 AM** | Miracle on the Mountain | Michael Dickie |
| **9:24 AM** | Miracle Run | Frank Bingert |
| **9:26 AM** | Donations | Jamie England |
| **9:43 AM** | Scholarship | Karen Imperatrice |
| **9:45 AM** | Safety | Ken Reynolds |
| **9:47 AM** | Ritual | Rich Zacek |
| **9:49 AM** | Public Relations | Paul J. Burke Jr. |
| **9:51 AM** | Publications | Richard Poole |
| **9:53 AM** | Parades | Dina Zacek |
| **9:55 AM** | NJ Run For The Fallen | Chris Russo |
| **9:57 AM** | Army of Hope | Jack Joyce |
| **9:59 AM** | National Veteran Services | Ed Leib |
| **10:01 AM** | National Foundation | William Hartman |
| | Donations | Jamie England |
| **10:16 AM** | Memorial | Michael Veth |
| **10:18 AM** | Membership | Edward Eglentowicz |
| **10:22 AM** | Lodge Development | Michael Corbosiero |
| **10:24 AM** | Lodge Activities | Jayne McLaughlin |
| **10:26 AM** | Laws | Robert Binetti |
| **10:28 AM** | Internet Operations | Joe DeBonis |
| **10:30 AM** | Historical | Jeffery Bryant |
| **10:32 AM** | Government Relations | Evelyn D'Antoni |
| **10:34 AM** | Drug Awareness | MaryEllen Lawrence |
| **10:39 AM** | Enrique Camarena Award Presentation | Thomas M. Zisa, PCJGF & Robert Ricker, PGLELK |
| **10:50 AM** | CLMS | Connie Cantwell |
| **10:52 AM** | Auditing & Business Practices | Kevin Pent |
| **10:54 AM** | Americanism | Charles Stecher |
| **10:56 AM** | Credentials Final Report | Barbara Monti |
| **10:58 AM** | Communications | Sue Dupas, State Secretary |
| **11:00 AM** | Unfinished Business | Sue Dupas, State Secretary |
| **11:02 AM** | New Business - Elections | Francis J. Decibus, PSDGER |
| **11:04 AM** | Good of the Association | Sue Dupas, State Secretary |
| **11:06 AM** | Remarks Malcolm J. McPherson Jr., Past Grand Exalted Ruler | |
| | Introduction of Timothy F. Jaeger, Grand Exalted Ruler | |
| | Remarks John R. Optiz Jr., State President MD/DE/DC Association | |
| | Remarks Kris Benedict, State President Pennsylvania Association | |
| | Remarks Donald Tonachio, State President NJ State Elks Association | |
| **11:46 AM** | Benediction | Melanie Pasquarelli, State Chaplain |
| **11:48 AM** | God Bless America | Diane Lovato, Nutley Lodge #1290 |
| **11:50 AM** | Adjournment | |

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|---|---|---|
| **12:00 PM** | **Lunch** | ***Atlantic Ballroom*** |

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| **1:30 PM** | **Breakout Sessions-Exalted Rulers & Members** | ***Oceanport*** |

**Public Relations:** *Beyond the Flyer - AI and the Do's and Don'ts of Elks Public Relations*
Presented by State Chairman Paul Burke Jr.
Advisors of the Committee GLC/PSP Joyce Powell, GL Membership & Public Relations Director Rick Gathen, PSP Joe Pedone

**Laws:** *Good Standing Matters: Maintaining & Protecting your Lodge Corporation*
Presented by State Chairpeople PGLC/PSP Robert F. Binetti & PCJGF/PSP Thomas M. Zisa

**National Veterans Services:** *Elks Serving Veterans: A Tradition of Honor & Commitment*
Presented by State Chairman Ed Leib
Advisors of the Committee PCHBOGT/PSP Rich Tabachuk, GLC/PSP Victoria Watson

**Army of Hope:** *More Than an Event: Understanding the Army of Hope*
Presented by State Chairman Jack Joyce
Advisors of the Committee PGLELK/PSP Roy R. De Ritter, PCHBOGT/PSP Rich Tabachuk, PGLC/PSP Richard Bard

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| **1:30 PM** | **District Deputies Meeting with Grand Exlated Ruler Timothy F. Jaeger** | ***PGER Malcolm's Room*** |
| **1:30 PM** | **State Trustees' Meeting** | ***Promenade 7 & 8*** |
| **4:00 PM** | **Toast & Flag Charge Contests** | ***Monmouth Ballroom*** |
| **7:30 PM** | **State Banquet** | ***Atlantic Ballroom*** |