

**Johnson
City**

ELKS

**Lodge
#2821**

The Little Lodge That Does Big Things!

2014-2015 Officers:

Exalted Ruler – Gayle Klein
Leading Knight – Hope Woodcock-Ross
Loyal Knight – Leona St. Clair
Lecturing Knight – Tammi Seeley
Secretary – Paul Reger
Treasurer – Dennis Gazda
Esquire – Deb Valenta, PER
Chaplain – Alicia Beck, PER
Inner Guard – Liz Laughlin
Tiler – Emilie Klein
Trustees – Ken Jennison, PER
Steve Flint, PER
Mike Kelley
Scott Dow
Kimberly Reger

Stay up to date on the lodge's
calendar of events! Follow us on
FaceBook!

4212 Watson Blvd., Johnson City,
NY 13790 - 1052
Phone - (607) 798-0358
e-mail: JCELKS@GMAIL.COM

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:
Gayle Klein & Leona St. Clair –
jcelks@gmail.com

PRINTING and DISTRIBUTION:
Jerry & Pat Smith



donatelifenet

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We all know the importance of our own traditions, especially this time of the year. However, do we, as Elks, know the importance of the Initiation Ritual? Traditions are beliefs or actions passed down within groups or societies having symbolic meaning or special significance. The Latin word "tradere" literally means to transmit, to hand over, or to give for safekeeping. Decorating a Christmas tree or lighting a Menorah are sacred traditions for many families and have been passed on from generation to generation. The Ritual the Elks perform for the Initiation of new members is an important Elk tradition as this sacred moment is the time to demonstrate what Elks represent. It is a tradition passed on from the very beginning of the organization and performed at every Lodge. Its performance unifies all the Lodges. Roman Law originally used the word tradition to refer to the concept of legal transfer and inheritance. From my experience with the Ritual team, I have gained a greater understanding of the meaning and purpose of the Ritual. What greater inheritance can we give our new members but our beliefs of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity.

At this time of year, let us all remember the traditions dear to our hearts and also the importance of the Ritual. Every member should strive to attend an Initiation once a year as an affirmation of the obligation we once took as a candidate.

***Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.
May it be wonderful for us all.***

ER Gayle Klein
Email: gklein@stny.rr.com
cell: 607-725-4802

*Look throughout this newsletter for a membership number. It will look like this **999**. If it is your number, just come to the lodge bar and claim your 'Friday Night Dinner For One' prize certificate. The winner must come in person and show his or her membership card to the bartender. Your prize must be claimed before the month has ended. That's all there is too it! You can then use it on any Friday Night.*

Membership Corner

Please welcome our newest members:

Frank Berdine, Jr.
Richard Mastrocova
Melissa Toal
Donald Toal

Applications in Process

Mike Purtell proposed by Bob Purtell
David Balchikonis proposed by Tammi Seeley
Robert Wartonik transfer from Endicott Lodge #1977
Jack Rosencrance proposed by Carin Palmer

Proposing candidates helps us to share our values with the community. Our numbers are growing! Next Month is up to YOU!

Membership Status

Membership as of 04/01/2014	225
Members Initiated	+12
Members Affiliated	+3
Members Reinstated	+0
Member Transfer and Absolute Demits	-0
Members Deceased	-2
Dropped From Our Rolls (for non-payment)	-0

Current Membership	238

2014 – 2015 Dues

If you don't have a blue membership card, your 2014-2015 dues have not been paid. All of us must pay our dues by April 1 every year. Third Notices were mailed to all delinquent members during the month of November. The dues for this year are:

Lodge #2821 Dues	\$50.00
Grand Lodge Assessments	\$16.00
NYSEA Assessments	\$ 2.00

Total Due	\$68.00

Optional Donations:

ENF	\$10.00
Major Projects	\$ 8.00
Scholarship	\$25.00
Building Fund	\$25.00
General Fund	\$25.00

Please send in your 2014-2015 dues, along with any optional donations that you wish. Your new membership card will be sent as soon as your dues payment is processed. Fifteen members have still not paid their dues. Drop notices will be prepared in November for those members remaining delinquent.

Please notify your Lodge Secretary when any of your contact information has changed. This includes your mailing address, home phone, cell phone, and e-mail address. If we don't have current contact information you will be missing out on communications from your lodge and your order. Also, once again, please let me know whether you prefer to receive the newsletter via e-mail or hardcopy. Thanks!



**LODGE #2821
HONORS OUR VETERANS**

**“So Long As There Are
Veterans, The
Benevolent And
Protective Order of Elks
Will Never Forget Them!”**

THE VETERANS CORNER

Ken Jennison, Lodge Chair (kennethajennison@gmail.com)
607-849-7892

Oxford Veterans Home Visit December 21

December Birthdays

01	Gail Smith
02	Jack Fitzgerald
06	Pam Circiveto
06	Howard Heath
06	Joe Wlostowski
09	John Chauncey
09	Adam Gardner
09	Flo Winters
14	Mark Prindle
16	Craig Maye
16	Mike Teeter
19	John Whittemore
23	Karen Gazda
24	Gail Ghinger
25	Holly Belveg
26	Marlene Danielowicz
26	Brittany Kirker
29	Jack Dilascia
29	Al Fendick
29	Ernie Troncelliti

Don't forget to stop in for your birthday drink and birthday celebration the first Friday of the month!

Sickness & Distress:

None

If you know of someone who is sick or in distress of any kind, please contact the Lodge. We care about the well-being of all of those connected with our lodge

In Vain We Call:

None

*****ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS*****

At the first regular meeting in January – January 6 – we will vote on the purchase of our current lodge. This is a very important matter, and all members are encouraged to attend

Let Christmas be time to 'Elevate America'!

Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler, JOHN D. AMEN

This is the busy holiday season when social activities at our Lodges are at the maximum and we as Elks have the opportunity for fun with our friends. December can also be a time for great voluntary service in our communities.

I am reminded of a good friend who is an active and prominent Elk in my home state. He grew up in a dusty town in another state where the economy was chronically in poor shape. My friend learned of the Elks when he was a boy in his small town because of the annual Christmas party hosted by the Elks for the whole community.

Some 50 years later he would recount the pleasant experiences of sitting on Santa's lap at the Elks Lodge, grateful for the simple gift he received from the Elks on those happy occasions.

This remembrance of my friend exemplifies the message of our Leading Knight's Initiatory charge that "the influence of a good deed, honestly and promptly performed, will continue forever."

One of the most heart-warming activities that we can participate in is Christmas basket donations to the needy. It takes a little planning and a few requests to local businesses for donations of food items and small gifts. My experience is that at this time of year our businesses are supportive and generous in this type of activity. If your Lodge does not have a community gift basket program you are missing out. This is one activity that when the call goes out for volunteers you will be pleased at the positive response.

This can also be a time of year when sadness can be felt in our VA hospitals. A friendly visit with a veteran who is sick or in distress will be rewarded greatly. It costs nothing other than a little time, and "the influence of a good deed will last forever."

Marcia and I wish all Elks and families a Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New Year.



On November 9, the JC ritual team performed in the Tri-District competition, and they did our lodge proud.

Special congratulations to Gayle, who placed first in the Leading Knight position!

In the end, the team lost to Homer by less than two points. But that doesn't diminish the hard work they did, and that they were, in fact, amazing. Congratulations to each and every one of you, you deserve it.

Gayle Klein, Leading Knight; Kathy Neiss, Exalted Ruler; Leona St. Clair, Loyal Knight; Michelle Newkirk, Inner Guard; Kim Reger, Candidate; Tammi Seeley, Lecturing Knight; Deb Valenta, Esquire; Alicia Beck, Chaplain

This year's Hoop Shoot will be held December 13th at the Johnson City YMCA

Registration starts at 9 am
Contest will run until all contestants have competed

We are in need of many volunteers, please contact Dino Christopher at 798-8178 if you can help.



USO Cookie Delivery Date Dec 20

Please deliver cookies to lodge, marked for USO by Saturday Dec 20th.

Hope will be leaving the lodge at 9am for Fort Drumm, so please get your contributions in before then.



Memorial Sunday

Please join us as we honor the memory of
“Our Absent Members”



Sunday, December 7th, 1 pm

**At the Hilltop Campus,
 Highlands Community Center
 Carpathian Hill, Johnson City**

Luncheon to follow the ceremony

~~~~~  
 Members Lost since our last Memorial Sunday:

***Marie Murray***

*Initiated 11-3-2004, Died 3-29-2014*

***Joseph Maluchnik, PSVP***

*Initiated 02-05-1975, Died 07-15-2014*

***Patricia Chura***

*Initiation 6-18-2002, Died 7-27-2014*

## *In Vain We Call*

**Anita Wlostowski, Died 7-30-2003**

**Richard Miller, Sr., Died 12-31-2003**

**Darlene Powell, Died 3-24-2005**

**Floyd Lafreniere, Died 7-27-2005**

**John Hruseck, Died 10-18-2006**

**Jane Hebler, Died 12-12-2006**

**Don Hathaway, Died 5-22-2007**

**Joseph Cox, Died 11-10-2007**

**Dana Platt, Died 3-10-2008**

**Betty Clough, Died 4-18-2008**

**Dewitt Cox, PDD, Died 4-2-2009**

**Stephan Modlo, Died 6-26-2009**

**Thomas Karpinko, PDD, Died 12-17-2009**

**Arlene Williams, Died 6-23-2011**

**James Gable, Died 11-10-12**

**Helen Sicignano, Died 3-31-13**

**Jack Carle, Died 4-6-13**

**Doug Gardner, Died 4-26-13**

**Faye Anderson, Died 11-10-13**

The Oxford Christmas party is scheduled for December 21 at 2pm. We have always had a great turnout for this event. Hope to see you all there, and as always, we will car pool to Oxford.

There will be a Giving Tree at the lodge. As in the past, you sign a Christmas card, pay \$5, and they will be delivered to Oxford at the party. This is used as a fundraiser to offset the cost of the party, so please sign a bunch of cards! If you can't go on Dec 21 this is a good way to support the event. Remember, we support 32 vets on Apple cottage and they look forward to our coming for Christmas.

E.N.F.---Our Lodge has met the Per Capita goal of \$4.60 set forth by G.E.R. John Amen. Our Lodge is currently at \$6.23 with 29% member donation participation.

Achieving this goal allowed us to receive the Gratitude Grant of \$2,000. We also received the Promise Grant and the Beacon Grant. Each of these grants was also \$2,000. The \$6,000 we received will be used for our Lodge's charitable works.

Your donations made this possible. As always if you have any questions regarding your E.N.F. member status or ways to donate please contact me or the Elks National Foundation.

Thanks,  
 Russell Ryan, E.N.F. Chairman, P.E.R.  
 rryan@stny.rr.com

**Did you know...?**

I'm writing this column the week of Thanksgiving. It is so inspirational to look back on the year and realize how much our Lodge has to be thankful for!

**George and Karen Henson** donated an amazing amount of paper product, plastic silverware and food containers to our Lodge. They owned and operated an amazing Food Truck business and recently retired. One day he went into the garage storage area and said, what are we going to do with all this? He loaded it up and brought it to his lodge! George and Karen this was a very generous gift and greatly appreciated.

**The Homer and Cortland Lodges** joined us in helping provide a K9 vest for Cortland Police Officer Stafford and his K9 Lummel. This vest will be embroidered with "The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Thank you **Sharon Flint, District Deputy**, for your assistance in this endeavor.

The **Johnson City Elks Exalted Ruler Gayle** has been working hard on the Johnson City Professional Women Holiday Parade. These events take a great deal of work and coordination. The Parade is December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Our Lodge has a float and will be joined by the residents of our Christmas HCA Houses and the HCA children. We will have a total of 4 vehicles in the Parade. Your Lodge also provided much needed plywood for the HCA "Whoville" float. Last year HCA did an amazing job painting heavy duty cardboard to replicate "Whoville" from the Grinch. This year they wanted to construct it from plywood. Many thanks to **Jim and Terri Willerton** of Belknap Lumber for giving me an amazing lesson in "Plywood 101". The shapes, houses, scenery can now become permanent pieces for many years of parades. Many thanks to **Jackie LaMont** for making us aware of this opportunity. **Jackie** works at HCA. Finally, thank you to **Gayle's amazing sons** who are engineering students at BCC. They devised a new lighting system for our Lodge's float! It wasn't easy but they persevered and this year our float will be much brighter!

As a lodge we voted on providing a young mother and her son new winter coats, boots, gloves, etc. She was struggling and had nowhere else to turn. Her thank you note is on the bulletin board in the dining room of the lodge. It is an extremely moving letter.

**Sue Whalen** bid on and won a huge bag of yarn at our Charity Auction. She gave the yarn to our member **Tina Feeney**. **Tina** made 65 winter hats in an amazing short period of time (Sue couldn't believe how quickly she did this!) **Tina** donated the hats to the Ben Franklin School in Binghamton. There is such great need in this school and they were overwhelmed by this act of kindness. So to the **person who donated** the bag of yarn to **Sue** who bought it at the auction to **Tina** who spent the time and energy to create the hats, thank you for making a difference.

I left a few people out of my thank yous last month. **Gail Ghinger** was a driving force behind the K9 event! She solicited and engaged 8 people to donate gifts or certificates for our raffle. She also donated FIVE dog beds! Thank you so much **Gail**. I also neglected to mention **Wendy Turner** who diligently and beautifully took photos of the event and shared this story in pictures! We so appreciated all your help in making this a success.

**John Tokos** has a very creative way to help the Humane Society and Every Dogs Dream shelters. Don't just take your dog for a walk, take your walk for a dog! Go to **WoofTrax.com** and download the app. This will support your favorite dog shelter. Don't have a dog, no problem, just walk. For every mile you walk the shelter gets .25 cents! Any questions please contact John!

**Gayle Lovell's daughter** has a little store inside the 607 Shop in the Oakdale Mall. (It is located across from Ruby Tuesday's) **Her daughter** makes **Hungry Hound Brewsuits** for your doggies! They are made from the byproducts of beer grains from Craft Breweries, peanut butter and eggs. Oh, by the way, despite the name Brewsuits they contain NO alcohol or hops! Our doggies loved them!

I am so thankful I am a member of this amazing lodge. We take our oath to exemplify the virtues of charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity. I am surrounded by members who constantly reinforce these virtues. Thank you and have a wonderful, Merry Holiday.

Did you know our members enjoy knowing what's happening with YOU? Please email [wbeck@stny.rr.com](mailto:wbeck@stny.rr.com) with YOUR news.

~Submitted by Alicia Beck, Lodge Chaplain

October's Elk of the Month is

**George Henson**

for his thoughtfulness in donating kitchen items to the Lodge.

Thanks, George for all you do and for being a great Elk!  
You make us proud to be Johnson City Elks.

## **ER Holiday Party**

December 27th at 6pm

Enjoy a relaxing night out after all the Holiday fuss

Great Chili and Delicious Baked Potato Bar

Also karaoke! Come and vote for your favorite performer!



# Happy Holidays from the Johnson City Elks!



Benevolent and Protective  
Order of Elks of the U.S.A.

A Fraternal Organization

## **Mission Statement**

To inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that **Elks Care and Elks Share.**

Lodge hours – Monday thru Thursday open at 5.30pm; Friday open at 4.30pm; Saturday and Sunday contingent upon events

**Johnson City Elks Newsletter**  
**Johnson City Elks Lodge #2821**  
**4212 Watson Blvd.**  
**Johnson City, NY 13790**



**December 2014**  
**Vol. 17 Issue 12**

| Sunday                                                                 | Monday                                                           | Tuesday                                                                 | Wednesday                                                                                  | Thursday                                                          | Friday                                                                                         | Saturday                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 30(Nov)<br><br><b><u>**358**</u></b>                                   | 1                                                                | 2<br><br><b>House Cmtee<br/>Mtg 5.30pm</b><br><br><b>7pm Lodge Mtg</b>  | 3<br><br><b>League Night<br/>Draw for<br/>Partners 6pm</b><br><b>Alicia's Potluck</b>      | 4<br><br><b>Johnson City<br/>Holiday Parade<br/>7pm</b>           | 5<br><br><b>Dinner TBA</b><br><br><b>Wear red today!</b>                                       | 6                                                                         |
| 7<br><br><b>Memorial<br/>Sunday at<br/>Highlands 1pm</b>               | 8<br><br><b>Bar Menu/ pizza</b><br><br>Dave's<br>T-Party<br>7pm  | 9<br><br><b>Mom's House<br/>Christmas<br/>Party 5pm</b>                 | 10<br><br><b>Lion's Club<br/>dinner 6pm</b>                                                | 11<br><br><b>Bar Menu</b><br><br>Dave's<br>T-Party<br>7pm         | 12<br><br><b>Hope's Chicken<br/>&amp; Biscuits</b><br><br><b>Wear red today!</b>               | 13<br><br><b>Hoop Shoot<br/>9am</b><br><br><b>Vets Holiday<br/>Dinner</b> |
| 14                                                                     | 15<br><br><b>Bar Menu/ pizza</b><br><br>Dave's<br>T-Party<br>7pm | 16<br><br><b>House Cmtee<br/>Mtg 5.30pm</b><br><br><b>7pm Lodge Mtg</b> | 17<br><br><b>League Night<br/>Draw for<br/>Partners 6pm</b><br><br><b>Alicia's Potluck</b> | 18<br><br><b>Bar Menu</b><br><br>Dave's<br>T-Party<br>7pm         | 19<br><br><b>Tokos' All You<br/>Can Eat Soup &amp;<br/>Salad</b><br><br><b>Wear red today!</b> | 20<br><br><b>Bunco 7pm</b>                                                |
| 21<br><br><b>Vets Home<br/>Visit &amp;<br/>Christmas<br/>Party 2pm</b> | 22<br><br><b>Bar Menu/ pizza</b><br><br>Dave's<br>T-Party<br>7pm | 23                                                                      | 24<br><br><b>League Night</b><br><br><b>Alicia's Potluck</b>                               | 25<br><br><b>MERY<br/>CHRISTMAS!!!</b><br><br><b>Lodge Closed</b> | 26<br><br><b>Lodge Closed</b>                                                                  | 27<br><br><b>ER Holiday<br/>Party 6pm</b>                                 |
| 28                                                                     | 29<br><br><b>Bar Menu/ pizza</b><br><br>Dave's<br>T-Party<br>7pm | 30                                                                      | 31                                                                                         | 1(Jan)                                                            | 2(Jan)                                                                                         | 3(Jan)                                                                    |

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If you would like to be a bulletin booster member, just forward a check for \$10 made out to the JC Elks 2821 to Jerry Smith, 537 Reynolds Rd., JC., NY 13790. Your name(s) will appear for one year as a Bulletin Booster Club Supporter.

**April 2014**

The Beck Family remembers the wit and wisdom of **Anne Eileen O'Malley Beck and Joseph L Beck**. "May you never forget what is worth remembering or remember what is best forgotten."

The Beck Family remembers **Annie Safemf deBoer**. "Throughout our lives we are given precious people. Some we enjoy for a lifetime, others only briefly. Every person has the power to change us, enrich us and make us better people." Annie 1918 -1952

Pat & Jerry Smith and Betty Ann & Dan Juraska in memory of the **Smith & Juraska** deceased family members.

**May 2014**

In memory of **Joe Cox** from Barry and Liz Klipsch.

**July 2014**

In memory of *my beloved husband, who I love immensely and miss so very, very much, Stefan. With all my love forever.* Gerri Jurkiw

In memory of *my wonderful and loving parents, Edward & Bertha Okoniewski whom I also miss so very, very much. I will love you forever.* Gerri Jurkiw

**October 2013**

In memory of **Gail Troncelliti and Family** from Ernie Troncelliti

In memory of **Richard Miller Sr.** *Never does a day go by that we do not miss you.* Anita, Rick & Julie, Rick & Tammy Balles

**November 2013**

In memory of *my sister, Nellie Fleeger. Will always remember the good times we had.* Florence (Flo) Winters

**December 2013**

In memory of **Ron Montanari, PDDGER.** Lorraine Montanari

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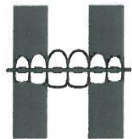
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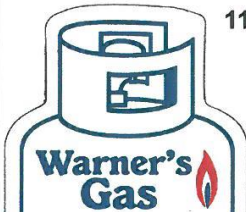
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116 Vestal Rd., Vestal, NY 13850

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 SAT 9 AM - 4 PM

*From Memorial to Labor Day*  
 SUN 11 AM - 3 PM



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