

**Johnson  
City**

**ELKS**

**Lodge  
#2821**

## ***The Little Lodge That Does Big Things!***

### **2025 – 2026 Officers:**

**Exalted Ruler** – Josh Bell  
**Leading Knight** – vacant  
**Loyal Knight** – Ben Cabot II  
**Lecturing Knight** – Jeff Dibble  
**Secretary** – Russ Ryan, PSVP  
**Treasurer** – vacant  
**Esquire** – Tim Turner  
**Chaplain** – Barb Robarge  
**Inner Guard** – Charlotte Bell  
**Tiler** – Herb Flint  
**Trustees** – Al Jasinski  
Dennis See  
Dino Christopher

**January 2026**

Brothers and Sisters,

It's a new year and time to look back at 2025 and ahead to 2026. We had a lot of excitement in 2025. Our 25<sup>th</sup> year celebration. Various activities surrounding Mike Sage's candidacy for NYSEA president. Revitalization of our Drug Awareness program with community engagement at JC trunk or treat and the holiday parade. Continued involvement fundraising and doing activities at the Oxford Veterans Home. We've done a lot to be proud of!

Now it's time to see what else we can accomplish in 2026. New Year equals an opportunity for new ideas. There is already discussion about possibly doing some outdoor events this year. Music? Cornhole? Community day? Why not? One of our most underused assets right now is our outdoor facilities and all that green space, so we are actively looking for ideas, and people to get involved in repairs/improvements and helping with events. We are also revamping our hall rental program for 2026 and possibly adding catering as an option. Stay tuned for details.

As you can see, there's a lot going on and a lot to look forward to. Make it your new year's resolution to get involved however you can support the work of our lodge. Please contact me or any officer if you'd like to help.

"May your troubles be less  
And your blessings be more  
And nothing but happiness  
Come through your door"  
*-Traditional Scots New Years Blessing*

Josh Bell ER  
bpoebell@echoes.net

*The lodge is in need of a Treasurer. If you are interested, please contact Russ Ryan. Thank you.*

**Mortgage Update:**  
Our mortgage balance stands at \$71,622. Contributions to the building fund are appreciated in getting this job done. Thanks!

Please keep an eye on the Facebook page for fundraisers to Support Endorsed candidate for State President 26-27 Mike Sage

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

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**donatelifenet**

## Membership Corner

Please welcome our newest members:

Les Arsenault

Applications in Process

Richard Miller III proposed by Dino Christopher

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



**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

### **Oxford Veterans Home Visit January 17<sup>th</sup>**

#### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 William Beck  
2 Dolene Riley  
3 Daniel Griffith  
8 Dale Stevens  
9 Johannes Potgieter  
10 Lisa McKernan  
12 Margaret Cox  
17 Lori Wahila  
19 Dino Christopher PER  
21 Margaret Graham  
21 Richard Topa  
24 Joseph Ruspantini  
25 Catherine Massie  
28 David Nowetner



#### Sickness & Distress:

*None*

#### In Vain We Call:

*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.*

### Membership Status

**Membership as of 04/01/2025 160**

<b>Members Initiated</b>	<b>+1</b>
<b>Members Affiliated</b>	<b>+2</b>
<b>Members Reinstated</b>	<b>+0</b>

<b>Member Transfer and Absolute Demits</b>	<b>-3</b>
<b>Members Deceased</b>	<b>-0</b>
<b>Dropped From Our Rolls (for non-payment)</b>	<b>-0</b>

**Current Membership 160**

### 2025 – 2026 Dues

**Dues are due before April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 for the year 2025-2026.** All of us must pay our dues before April 1<sup>st</sup> every year. Dues notices for the 2024 – 2025 year will be mailed. **The dues for new year are:**

Lodge #2821 Dues	\$55.00
Grand Lodge Assessments	\$31.00
NYSEA Assessments	\$ 5.00

**Total Due** \$91.00

Optional Donations:

<b>ENF</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Major Projects</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
Scholarship	\$25.00
Building Fund	\$25.00
General Fund	\$25.00

Please send in your 2025-2026 dues along with any optional donations that you wish. Your new membership card will be mailed to you as soon as your dues payment is processed.

**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!!  
- Russell Ryan, P.E.R., Lodge Secretary [rryan@stny.rr.com](mailto:rryan@stny.rr.com)  
607-775-4640 (H) 607-222-3610 (C)

**Elk of the Month**

December's Elk of the month is  
**Charlotte Bell**

Charlotte has taken on the Elks Drug Awareness Program at both the Lodge and District level, coordinated the Trunk or Treat and the Johnson City Holiday Parade, and is the keeper of our mascot, Elroy, getting him to events. Thanks to her, over 500 pieces of Drug Awareness merch has been handed out in our local community.

Thank you for all you do! You make us all proud to be Johnson City Elks!

**Welcome to Friday Night Dinners**

See this newsletter for upcoming dinner specials. Please consider attending a dinner on Friday evenings. They are served starting at 4:30 Cost is \$13.00 It would be very nice to see more of our members attending these dinners. Come down to your Lodge, enjoy a great meal, and show your support for our volunteers. Dinner suggestions? New dinner ideas are always welcome.

Please remember, all kitchen and wait staff are volunteers, if you would like to join in working a dinner let your server know. You can also contact the Lodge at 798-0358.

**Bourbon Tasting**

This year's Bourbon Tasting will be held at the Owego Lodge on February 12. Kitchen opens at noon, tastig between 2 and 3, and the auction starts at 3pm.

Tickets are \$50 and are available at both the JC and Owego Lodges, or by contacting Herb Flint at 607-759-8985.

**IT'S PARTY TIME**

Looking to hold a get together with family or friends? We proudly offer our dinning room which accommodates up to 50 for your special events. Contact the Lodge at 798-0358. Thanks

**A message from Membership Director Rick Gather:****Thrive with Five: Momentum builds for membership growth**

Last year, we achieved our fourth consecutive year of growth—a milestone that speaks not just to effort, but to belief. Belief in our mission. Belief in our Lodges. Belief in the power of Elkdom to strengthen communities and change lives.

That success is our launching pad for this year's challenge: Thrive with Five in 2025–2026. The bar is higher. The mission is bigger. And the momentum is unmistakable.

As we enter the final stretch of the Lodge year, with official numbers closing on May 31, projections show that we are on pace to welcome 92,000 new Members to our Order — an extraordinary achievement by any measure.

But real, lasting success rests on one essential cornerstone: Retention.

Every new and returning Member adds strength to the story we're writing. A story of resilience, purpose, and pride.

What we do today will shape who we become tomorrow.

Let's seize this moment, initiate with urgency, and push together toward a future worthy of the Elks.

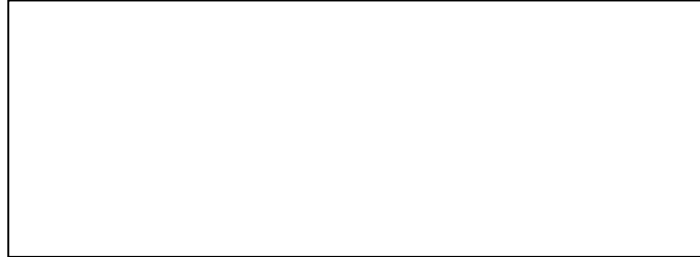
To stay on pace and keep this momentum strong, please remember to initiate all candidates by March 31, 2026.

Every candidate initiated is one more spark fueling a thriving and successful year. Famed writer Charles Caleb Colton reminded us, "Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm."

Right now, Elkdom needs enthusiasm—your enthusiasm—more than ever. Let's harness it. Let's drive the mission forward. And let's Thrive with Five like never before.

All Gas. No Brakes!

Johnson City Elks Newsletter  
 Johnson City Elks Lodge #2821  
 4212 Watson Blvd.  
 Johnson City, NY 13790  
 A Fraternal Organization



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28(Dec)	29(Dec)	30(Dec)	31(Dec)	1 Happy New Year! Lodge closed	2 Beef Stew and Mashed Potatoes	3
4	5	6 7pm Lodge Mtg	7 Pitch night	8 7pm T-Party	9 Chicken Marsala and Garlic Mashed Potatoes	10
11	12	13	14 Pitch night	15 7pm T-Party	16 Vet's Pasta Dinner	17 Oxford Vet's Home Visit
18	19	20 7pm Lodge Mtg	21 Pitch night	22 7pm T-Party	23 Beef Tips Over Noodles and Salad	24
25	26	27	28 Pitch night	29 7pm T-Party	30 Lasagna, Salad, and Garlic Knots	31

*The Lodge is open Wednesday & Thursday 5.30-8pm, Friday 4-7pm*