



The Elks Profile

Laconia Lodge #876

17 Sugarbush Lane • Gilford, New Hampshire 03249
603-524-0809



VOL. XXXIV, No. 2

B.P.O.E. ~ A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION

February - 2020

A Message from the Exalted Ruler

February 2020

We have finished the first month of the New Year, and our lodge and Elkdom have started out strongly.



Americanism has always been an integral part of the Elks organization. As you know it is designed to reach the hearts and minds of our nation's youth, helping them appreciate what it is to be an American and allowing them to voice their views on patriotism and on what it means being an American. Two of our members, David Horvath and Scott Robinson, agreed to chair this project and reached out to the local schools of Laconia, Gilford, Alton, Meredith, and Belmont.



Grand Lodge designated that the theme this year was "What Does Freedom of Speech Mean to Me?" After a few weeks, twelve essays were submitted, ironically all by eighth graders. Although all were very thoughtful and written "from the heart", three of the essays were outstanding and truly expressed what our founding fathers had in mind. A panel of four determined the three essays that stood out. These three essays have now been submitted to the State Officers for consideration. Now these three essays will "compete" against other outstanding

student submissions from around the state. The goal is that one of these three students will eventually be at the next Elks National Convention receiving an award for understanding the true meaning of freedom of speech.

It is not always easy for young people to express themselves in matters relating to patriotism and Americanism. When they do, it is important to recognize their efforts and truly listen to their sentiments. With this in mind, our lodge will be recognizing some of the students that participated in the Americanism essay project on Saturday, March 21st. We are inviting these students and their parents to join us for a dinner, the Member Appreciation Dinner, at 6:00 p.m. We will be inviting the students to read their essays, and I encourage all of you to come and listen to the words of our local youth. Let's honor them as students, Americans, and hopefully future Elks.

For any of you who have volunteered during this last year, please mark your calendars and plan to attend the Member Appreciation Dinner on March 21st. This is a great event to recognize the tireless work of our volunteers and Officers and to show appreciation for all that they do. Elkdom is built on sacrifice, volunteerism, and dedication; and for those that take the initiative, we thank you!

As the current year of Elkdom is slowly coming to a close, it is now time to reflect on the upcoming year and the duties that come with it. The lodge meetings of February will include the nomination of incoming officers and trustees and their election. Strong leadership can only benefit our lodge on the local, state, and national basis.

Every chance you get, please publicize the work of the Elks. Invite individuals who are strong of character, willing to volunteer in the lodge and in the community, and proud Americans to be a part of the greatest fraternal organization.

Exalted Ruler,
LISA SAUCEDA

Manager's Corner

New Raffle!

\$100 in local restaurant gift certificates

All proceeds go to the Elks Painting Restoration Fund

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for Wednesday night kitchen duties.

If the kitchen is important to you, sign up on the sheet on the cork board.

TRICIA ROY
Lodge Manager