



# The Elks Profile

Laconia Lodge #876

17 Sugarbush Lane • Gilford, New Hampshire • 603-524-0809  
P.O. Box 676 • Laconia, NH 03247-0676



## A Message from the Exalted Ruler

The year 2016 has come to an end. It has been a very busy year and it is with great optimism that the year 2017 will be a very successful year for our Lodge 876 and all of Elksdom.

### December 2016

December 9th was our lodge Christmas Party. The party was organized by Deirdre with new games and ways to celebrate each other and Christmas. It was a fun time had by all. Thanks Deirdre and Pete.

The Tilton's Veteran Home Christmas Party was held on Sunday December 11th. Many NH Lodges had member representation at the Party and as always the residents were excited and appreciative for the event.

Although December had only one meeting, and Meat Bingo and the Fish Fry were cancelled, the month seemed as busy as ever. The total dollars contributed by our generous members was \$3174 and total cost of food was \$3492. Thank you everyone who contributed. The weather did not deter the many volunteers who gathered on December 18th to assemble and deliver approximately 112 baskets to the many families provided to us by members. Thank you to Margaret Mary and Jimmy Culpon for the wonderful breakfast provided for all of the volunteers. Please visit our website and Facebook page to see pictures of the event. A huge thank you goes out to all of you that helped make this year's Christmas Basket Program a big success. It could not have been done without ALL of you.

The children's Christmas Party was also held on the 18th with Doti Acres-Gath organizing the event. Thank you to Doti and to those of you that helped at the party. Santa came as always to deliver the gifts to the children. Thank you Harry and Priscilla Bean for helping to make Santa's arrival a safe one.

Congratulations to Howie Kelleher on his recent retirement and a new chapter of his life to begin. With Howie's newly found extra time; he has been volunteering many hours to make improvements to our Lodge. One of these improvements is a new TV monitor in our bar area that scrolls through postings and pictures of past, present and future events. Pictures of the Christmas Basket event will be posted on the monitor in the lounge. If any of our members want to share any photos of events; please forward them along to Howie so that he may post them on the monitor. Thank you Howie for all you do.

### January - March 2017

We are back on schedule with our regular lodge meetings, the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. BOD and House Committee will meet the second Monday. The next few months are going to be busy.

#### January

The BOD and House Committee will begin working on budgets for the upcoming year to be presented no later than the 1st Lodge meeting in April. Budget committee meeting information will be forthcoming.

January 15th is a scheduled State Meeting to be held at our lodge. State Trustee meeting will be held at noontime with the regular State Meeting to follow at 1pm. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. A luncheon will be provided following the meeting. We still need volunteers to help with the luncheon. Please let us know if you are interested in helping out.

We have several new members coming in. Preparation for their initiation is in progress and a priority. Those coming in will be contacted to complete the preliminary requirements. Once completed the initiation will be scheduled.

This is the time of year when we begin to think about elections for the upcoming year. Please take some time to think about whom you might like to see as your new officers and/or trustees. It is a responsibility we all have as members; to nominate and elect those you feel worthy of leading our Lodge 876 for the upcoming year. It is a serious responsibility for all members, and one that in order for our lodge to survive, must be thought of carefully.

#### February

February 6th is the first Lodge meeting of the month and when nominations for Officers and Trustees will be heard on the floor. Attendance at this meeting is critical for those of you that have an interest in the leadership of our Lodge. Please mark this on your calendars to attend. The first meeting will also be when we celebrate our Past Exalted Rulers as well as when we celebrate "Old Timers Night". Lodge Secretary, Sandy Gaumont, will be contacting these honored members in advance for this celebration.

The second meeting of the month will be on February 20th and when election of officers will occur. Again attendance is critical, so please, please take time out of your busy schedules to attend these important meetings

#### March

Installation of Officers.

Please look for January events on our website: laconiaelks876.org, on the calendar in our newsletter, and on Facebook. In closing, I want to thank the officers and trustees for the support you have provided me throughout my term and up until the end of 2016. As well, I appreciate and cannot thank enough, those members who continually step up to help out. There is not one person in particular, but a village, that has made our Lodge successful. A sincere thank you from me to all of you.

Fraternally yours,  
Janice Dignan,  
Exalted Ruler

## MANAGER'S CORNER

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

All events are back on for the month of January, Meat Raffle January 20th, Fish Fry January 27th, and Karaoke January 14th.

Come on in and have some fun with your friends. The kitchen is open on Wednesday nights.

Peter Tibbetts,  
Lodge Manager