



The Elks Profile

Laconia Lodge #876

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

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A Message from the Exalted Ruler

June 2020

It's hard to believe that our Lodge has been closed for several weeks due to the pandemic. Everyone is anxious to return, socialize, enjoy a meal and a beverage, play some games, and catch up with friends and fellow members. Rest assured all of the officers are carefully monitoring what the Governor and health officials are suggesting and mandating. We want **ALL** of our members to remain healthy and safe and feel comfortable when returning to the Lodge. As soon as we can safely open, we will do so and announce it on our Facebook page, LACONIA ELKS 876, and on our Lodge's website, www.laconiaelks.org.

Although our Lodge has been closed, the Elk's spirit of charity and brotherly love continues to flourish. On May 1st our former Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Breana Martin, and I presented a \$2,000 check to Got Lunch Laconia at Woodland Heights Elementary School, the main distribution center for the program. Funds came from our Gratitude Grant. Hunger and food challenges are major issues that need to be combated in these difficult times. Not only did our Lodge's gesture of generosity benefit the local community's youth, but it was also publicized in the local newspaper, thereby showing the public a small example of why it's important and a privilege to be an Elk.



Laconia Elks makes donation to GOT LUNCH! Laconia

Lisa Saucedo and Breana Martin, members of the Laconia Elks Lodge #876, visited Woodland Heights Elementary School on May 1 to present a \$2,000 check for GOT LUNCH! Laconia. The Elks chose to use the funds from their Gratitude Grant to assist local residents facing challenges feeding their children. (Courtesy photo)

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend Flag Day in the Lodge parking lot on Sunday, June 14th, at 10:00 a.m. This is a mandatory ceremony in which all lodges must participate. We are living in a time of national challenges and at times divisiveness. One thing that truly unites all Elks and the country's citizens is patriotism and the pride of being an American. Please invite others, family or friends, to attend and show honor and respect for the American flag, it's history, and for what it truly represents. Social distancing will be possible as chairs will be spread apart. Additionally if one feels the need to wear a mask, please do so.

Sadly Copper Cannon Camp made the difficult decision to suspend operations for Summer Camp 2020. "Because of the ever-changing landscape of quarantine regulations, our strong commitment to the health and safety of our campers, and our desire to be financially responsible with the long-term mission of the organization, we do not see another path forward this year", said Peter Chrisnacht, Executive Director of the camp.

There has been some chatter amongst some members that have not yet paid their annual dues. Some are under the impression that since the

Lodge is not currently open, they can wait to pay their dues. This is a completely false narrative. For example, if you did not drive your new vehicle for two months, you would still be required to make monthly payments on time. The same is true as Elks. Although we can not socialize and congregate in the Lodge currently, we still have financial obligations that should and must be met as Elks. The Lodge still has bills to pay in order to re-open and function. Furthermore our Lodge has financial obligations that must be met with Grand Lodge. Part of being an Elk is taking the privilege of being a member seriously and living up to all of your obligations. If you have not yet paid your annual dues, please do so immediately. You can send a check to the Lodge directly. If you would like your card right away, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope, and the Secretary can mail your card to you.

Another topic that has come up from time to time is how members want to receive the Lodge's monthly newsletter. Several members have opted to stop receiving the newsletter through the mail and have chosen to read it online on our Lodge website, www.laconiaelks.org. Our out-of-state members do not receive the newsletter via the U.S. Postal Service, so they would be able to read the newsletter online. By reading the newsletter online, the Lodge's overall expenses would be reduced dramatically. If you still prefer to receive your copy through the mail, that is fine; but if you choose to discontinue mail service, please inform the Secretary at Secretary876@metrocast.net or mail a note to the Secretary indicating your preference.

As we move forward in the days and weeks ahead, please keep in mind that the information on the calendars is subject to change. In the meantime continue reaching out to your fellow members. A phone call, a note, or a socially distant visit goes a long way, especially with the older members and those that perhaps live alone and feel isolated. We are Elks, which means we care and we share.

Exalted Ruler,
LISA SAUCEDA

Manager's Corner

Hopefully the Lodge will open soon. When it does we will need many volunteers to accomplish current activities and help make-up those that we had to put on hold. PLEASE prepare to volunteer!

Lottery Ticket Raffle!

\$5/ticket or \$20/5 tickets

All proceeds go to the Elks Painting Restoration Fund

Stay healthy and safe. Elks strong!

TRICIA ROY
Lodge Manager