



BRIGANTINE LODGE # 2428

ANTLERS NEWSLETTER

May, 2020 Volume 12- No. 5

www.brigantineelks.com

MONTH EVENTS

None scheduled at this time. Please check the Weekly Digest for the latest updates.

May 25

**Memorial Day
Remember our Soldiers who gave their lives for our freedom.**



**Pat Orchard
Exalted Ruler, Elect**

To My Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy. The Covid-19 virus has put us on in an anxious state with such uncertainty of what will happen tomorrow, yet every day seems like the same as yesterday. I wish you all the best and please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any fellow officers for assistance or comfort. Remember our fraternal pledge to each other as we try to keep safe.

The new Elks year has become a bit of a non-starter for the new officers. We were extremely excited to start out the new year after the elections in February. We looked forward to the installation of officers, celebration of the Lodge's 50th anniversary, and many events planned for the Lodge. However, the safety and well-being of our members and community will always outweigh any celebrations. Lodge events for April and May are cancelled. This includes member meetings, any initiations, and any social events. The New Jersey State Elks Convention in Wildwood is also cancelled. We are waiting for announcements from the governor before we can begin to plan for any type of opening in the method required by the governor's decree. We will get through this however, perhaps appreciating solitude a little more.



During this pandemic, a few opportunities occurred for us as Elks to assist our community. First, the Lodge received a \$1500 ENF grant for the Community Food Bank of South Jersey and a \$500 grant for the True Spirit Coalition Food bank. These monies will assist in the purchase of food for many in our community in need of food after layoff or loss of jobs. During these hard times, we know these dollars will be put to good use in the community.



In addition, many seamstress and helpers began sewing masks from donated materials (cotton sheets remnants, etc.). As we know, masks are now a requirement to enter any public essential service sites. However, many people looked at each other to find out where can you buy and when would the masks be received. The Elks heard the call and worked to solve some of the "mask needs" in the community. Special people like Kathy Rodgers (Joe Rodgers wife) and Mame McCormick, who are not members but very willingly offered to help have been the "lead seamstresses" both doing an excellent job for the Elks. Many of our members such as Biz West, Hillarie Lattimer, Dawn Messer, Lorraine McCarty, Anita Hopkins, Jeanne DiCecco, Eileen Krater, Judy Stebbins, and others jumped into action. My sincere thank you for all who have offered to assist. The community is very appreciative of these efforts and "having a place to turn to for masks". We will continue the project until we find no masks are needed in the community.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ER Message	1
Veterans	2
Lodge Events	3-5

As we move into May, many of us are not quite sure what day of the week it is because of our social distancing. I hope we will all soon be able to rejoin in fellowship at the Lodge. I will keep you posted on schedules and plans for reopening as more direction is given by the State. Please stay safe and healthy. Be kind to one another in this difficult time.

Fraternally, Pat

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**WEBSITES TO VISIT
FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT THE ELKS**

www.brigantineelks.com
www.elks.org
www.njelks.com

**WINTER LOUNGE
HOURS**

MONDAY-THURS-
3PM - CLOSE
FRIDAY 2PM - CLOSE
SATURDAY 12PM - CLOSE
SUNDAY 12 PM - CLOSE

**MEMBERS - PLEASE USE
YOUR CARD KEY AT THE
LOUNGE ENTRANCE. YOU
MUST SIGN-IN ALL
GUESTS PER NJ STATE
ALCOHOL BEVERAGE
COMMISSION.
REMEMBER
"EACH MEMBER OF
LODGE 2428 MUST CARRY
HIS
PAID-UP MEMBERSHIP
CARD FOR ADMITTANCE
TO THE LODGE, AND HE
SHALL
WILLFULLY DISPLAY HIS
MEMBERSHIP CARD IF
REQUESTED TO DO SO."**

Board of Directors

Page 2

The Board of Directors conducted a teleconference meeting to determine new officers, review the budget (which will be presented at the next membership meeting) and discuss the various issues surrounding the Lodge and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board is committed to a vigilant ongoing review of finances as needed based upon the current restraints of social distancing to the Lodge.

Pat Orchard
Chair, Board of Directors

Veterans Services-Joe Kelly-Chair

PLANNED EVENTS: dependent upon State of New Jersey social distancing removal
June 7 Picnic at the Vineland Veterans Home
July 22 Bowling Party at the Vineland Veterans Home
Aug. 13 Prep, deliver and serve Dinner at Veterans Haven-South.

Lounge News Update

Need to notify the Lodge Secretary of a change in your email address, home address or phone number??

You may now submit your changes while in the Lounge. A clear plastic box with paper and pencil has been located next to the guest log book by the entrance. Please try and keep your contact information current so you are knowledgeable about all the upcoming Lodge events and activities.

ELKS CARE - Mask Distribution

The Elks' support of mask distribution continues throughout the community. Many citizens are very appreciative to get free masks that can be washed and re-used. However, the seamstresses could use more support and materials as the demand continues. If anyone has sewing talents and would like to create some masks, please let me know. If any members have any cotton materials (clean old sheets or other sewing remnants), those can be utilized for masks. We may be using masks for some time to come so please let us know if you or others need masks.

ELKS CARE - True Spirit Coalition Food Bank

We were fortunate to receive a \$1500 grant which was given to the Food Bank of South Jersey and \$500 grant for the True Spirit Coalition food bank. The monies have been given to both entities with much appreciation. Karen Geller did great work in writing the ENF grant, especially when our communities need the support. Thank you Karen and we hope to continue to see more grants for our community.

See article from Karen Geller below.

Brigantine Elks Donate To Community Food Banks

Communities are suffering due to these unprecedented times, brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Brigantine Elks Lodge members provide charitable services that help build stronger communities. In order to assist communities in this struggle a grant was written by Lodge member, Karen Geller, and was submitted to the Elks National Foundation. The grant was approved for \$2,000.

Exalted Ruler, Pat Orchard knew right where to donate the money to best benefit our communities. Checks were written immediately to provide food for local Food Banks that are experiencing a huge increase in the need for food for those who no longer have jobs and for the working poor.

The Brigantine Elks Lodge donated \$1500 to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, the largest anti-hunger and anti-poverty agency in the state. Its mission is to fight hunger and poverty in New Jersey by assisting those in need and seeking long-term solutions.

Currently, due to the Covid-19 crisis, they are experiencing a 45-50% increase in need, while experiencing a 55% decrease in product donation.

Denise Hladan, the new Director of External Affairs for the Food Bank said, “the demand for supply across the state has led to increasing prices, which makes financial donations, such as this one by the Brigantine Elks, so essential.”

The Elks also donated \$500 to the True Spirit Coalition Food Bank. Since its establishment in 1992, the True Spirit Coalition operates under one basic premise: to assist those in need in a confidential manner regardless of circumstances. Coordinator, Regina Herz, grateful for the donation, stated that “extra donations, such as this one, will allow them to give Acme gift cards to supplement the food they provide monthly such as for milk and eggs. She said they are experiencing an uptick with families in need who have school-age children, as well as the large numbers of elderly who have no pensions, or perhaps small Social Security payments and are living close to the poverty line.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks serve the people and communities through charitable programs, demonstrating that ELKS CARE AND ELKS SHARE.

Photo with the True Coalition check: Regina Herz, Coordinator, True Coalition Food Bank (left green coat); Elks Exalted Ruler, Pat Orchard; Harry McGarrigel III, Brigantine Elks Founder; Dave Biggins, Past Exalted Ruler; Jeanne, Di Cecco, Secretary; Gloria Jacobi, True Spirit; and Dr. Karen Geller, Grant Writer.

Photo with Community Food Bank of New Jersey check: Left Dr. Karen Geller, Grant Writer, Denise Hladun, Director of External Affairs, Community Food Bank of NJ, Harry McGarrigel III, Jeanne Di Cecco and Dave Biggins



Brigantine Lodge #2428 50th Anniversary Events Update

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the current coronavirus pandemic, the Lodge 50th Anniversary event originally scheduled for May 3, 2020 has been cancelled.

The second event will be on June 27th and will take place in the Lodge Backyard allowing for a far greater number of Members to attend. This will be a much more casual event and will be more of a birthday party. More information will be coming in the April and May Antlers.



Harry practicing social distancing and appreciating the mask made by volunteers



Social distancing while preparing to distribute gifts from the True Spirit Coalition efforts

True Spirit Coalition operates the food pantry for Brigantine families. Currently, there are over 70 families who utilize our services. Despite the Pandemic, our wonderful volunteers still distribute food on a weekly basis. Because the families could not come to us as they normally do for the holiday treats this year, volunteers from the Elks stepped up and delivered their holiday baskets. This made it a bit easier for our families and it made all of the helpers feel very productive. Because of the support from the Elks, we were able to fill the strong need of families struggling during this crisis and brighten their Holiday.

If you are in need of help, or want to help in any way, please follow us on Facebook (True Spirit Coalition) or contact us at (609) 266-7942

Secretary's Corner

As we begin the new Elks year, and are going through a most unusual time, we thank you for the 1114 members who have paid your dues! We have 274 members delinquent to date. If you know of any member that has not paid their 2020-2021 dues, please encourage them to contact me so they are not dropped from our roles. If any member is struggling in these difficult times, again, please contact me to see if we can be of assistance.

We are doing well with new membership, and have 32 candidates waiting to be read on the floor or waiting for initiation. Please remind anyone you are sponsoring of the steps in the process for membership. New Membership card are being sent out daily. **The card backing is pink for 2020-21.** A big thank you to all those current members who are bringing in new folks for Elks membership. We continue to see new applications and will try our best to get initiations done in a timely manner and anxiously await the reopening of the Lodge. Please remind anyone you are sponsoring of the steps in the process for membership.

Also please send any changes of address or email you may have to me as soon as possible. I can be reached at 610-420-4800 or jjdicecco@comcast.net.

LODGE STATUS

When we will be reopen is not in our hands but the hands of the State.

Fraternally, Pat Orchard

SPECIAL NEEDS EVENTS dependent upon State of New Jersey social distancing removal

Cape May County Zoo visit (Free and open to the public) on Sunday morning, July 12! More info to come.

The Philadelphia Franklin Institute will be presenting a hands on science show on Sunday morning, July 19th! Watch for times!

Donna Fulmer-Special Needs Chair

Want to be a Lodge Leader? Here's How!

Exalted Ruler Pat Orchard is introducing a new training initiative that will help to prepare members who would like to volunteer to be Officers or Committee Chairs in our Lodge. The program, **Lodge Leaders**, will cover the basic steps involved in planning and conducting a Lodge event. Activities such as ordering food, requesting city permits, ordering tents, posting volunteer sign up boards, chairing committee meetings, etc. will be covered. Current Committee chairs will participate and provide real world examples of how to prepare for and communicate an upcoming Lodge event. In addition, for those who are interested in becoming an Officer or Trustee, information on each Lodge Office and the associated responsibilities will be covered by past ERs and Trustees. Where possible, interested members can be assigned to current Chairs to experience first-hand how to run an event. Interested? Please contact Pat Orchard at 856-979-7334 or email at patpj51@yahoo.com.

OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU

ROSEMARIE BASILE SENDS CARDS TO ANY ELK WHO IS ILL OR IN DISTRESS. IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO COULD USE OUR HELP AND THOUGHTS, PLEASE LET ROSEMARIE BASILE-PH-856-419-3010 (H) KNOW. SHOULD A MEMBER PASS, THE OFFICERS WILL PERFORM AN ELKS FUNERAL SERVICE AT YOUR REQUEST. PLEASE CONTACT THE EXALTED RULER, PAT ORCHARD FOR ARRANGEMENTS@ 856-979-7334.

BRIGANTINE LODGE #2428
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