



# SOUTH ORANGE ELKS #1154

THE BENEVOLENT & PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS  
 220 Prospect St., South Orange, NJ 07079 • (973) 762 9848

## SO ELKS #1154



## 2017/2018 OFFICERS

<b>Exalted Ruler</b>	Michael G. Leonard
<b>Leading Knight</b>	John Ramsburg
<b>Loyal Knight</b>	Ian Lacey
<b>Lecturing Knight</b>	Annemarie Conte
<b>Secretary</b>	Bob Donnelly
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ron Housley
<b>Esquire</b>	Sam Finlay
<b>Chaplain</b>	Thomas Vena
<b>Inner Guard</b>	Paul Baron
<b>Tiler</b>	Andrew Zeitlin

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Chairman</b>	Bob Fanneron
<b>Trustee</b>	Frank Fresco
<b>Trustee</b>	Gene Meyers
<b>Trustee</b>	Mike Charvala
<b>Trustee</b>	James Walsh

## SOCIAL MEDIA

- [Members Only Facebook page](#)
- [Public Facebook page](#)
- [Our website](#)

## MESSAGE FROM OUR EXALTED RULER



Hello Members!

With one meeting under our belt in 2018, we have started the year off with some changes.

John Grew and Scott Fleisch will be joining the House Committee to fill the vacancies left by John Monsees PER and Allen Pierce. Thanks to those gentlemen who served the lodge generously for many years. We also welcome Andy Zeitlin to head the Fundraising Committee. Andy has a lot of ideas which we are eager to hear and implement. Thanks to his

predecessor Joe Donohue for his years of service. And finally, Membership Chairperson Annemarie Conte is adding new member investigations to her responsibilities.

Last year there were five Elks from our lodge who received Grand Exalted Ruler pins for sponsoring 3 or more new members during the year. If you have friends you think would make solid Elks then bring them into the lodge for a visit. There's still time for you to earn your pin! Applications for membership are available in the Grille Room and online at [SOElks.com](http://SOElks.com)

It's not too soon to be thinking about the Wildwood Reunion (aka convention) which is scheduled for 5/31 - 6/3. Be sure to mark your calendars and reserve the dates. We had a nice turnout last year and I'm hoping for even more people this June. The Reunion is open to spouses and kids so use this as an opportunity to get away with your family and bond with your fellow Elks. Pricing information will be available in the coming weeks.

If you are currently receiving this newsletter by mail please help us save money by switching to the electronic version. Send an email to [southorangeelks@gmail.com](mailto:southorangeelks@gmail.com) along with your name and you will receive the same newsletter more quickly and in color.

See you at the Lodge!  
 Michael G. Leonard  
 Exalted Ruler

## OUR LODGE NEWSLETTER IS GOING GREEN

### HELP THE LODGE BY RECEIVING OUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

Dear Members,

We are asking that anyone with an email address please start receiving this newsletter electronically. We spend a lot of money each year printing and sending paper newsletter that could be delivered in a snap electronically. The email version of the newsletter will get to you faster, it's in full color, it has clickable links embedded in it, and you are essentially giving the lodge more money to spend on our charitable endeavors. Currently we are still sending over 50 newsletters via the mail and that's way too many. Please email me at [SouthOrangeElks@gmail.com](mailto:SouthOrangeElks@gmail.com) with your name and email address to help us out. Thanks!

## LODGE UTILIZATION

Our lodge is available for parties and events! We have a maximum capacity of 100 for a cocktail party and about 80 for a sit-down dinner.

### Non-Members

The lodge is available for use to Non-members for a donation of \$500 for 5 hours (add \$50 for parties of 70+ guests). The 5 hours is the total time for set-up, party, and clean-up. Alcohol may be brought into the lodge for an event but it must be kept behind the bar and served to guests by an Elks bartender. No lodge-owned alcohol can be served. The kitchen is available for prep, storage, and to keep things cold in our fridge. No oven/stove use is allowed. Sterno cans may be used to keep hot things hot.

### Members

Membership has benefits! As an Elk, you're able to use the lodge for 5 hours for a donation of \$300 (an extra \$50 for parties of 70+ guests). Another HUGE benefit is that our entire cash bar (wine/liquor/beer) is available to you and your guests.

Your event must be YOUR event. By this we mean it's your party and you know all the guests. There is no such thing as member sponsored parties. This means that unless it's YOUR party and you know all the guests personally. Members can't be the front person for a neighbor's birthday party, a 5th cousin's bridal shower, or a school fundraiser, etc. These are NJ State laws set by the Alcohol Beverage Control. If we don't follow the law we put our liquor license at risk.

If you would like to book the lodge for an event please call 973-762-9848

## SECRETARYS CORNER

Fellow Members,

The 2017-2018 Elk year is flying by. Only 2 months remain. At this time we still have 11 members who have not paid dues for the current year. If possible please try to get your dues in.

Dues notices for the new Lodge year will be going out the first week in February. Thanks again to everyone for your support. At the Lodge meeting of Monday Feb. 5th, there will be nominations of officers for the new Elk year commencing April 1st. Elections to follow at the second meeting in February. Please mark your calendars. Feb. 5th. is also PER night where Lodge Past Exalted Rulers run the meeting. Hope to see all of you there.

Owing to my Irish heritage I would like to announce that there is a fundraiser on Sunday, Feb 18th for South Park District and Pipe Band at St. James Gate Pub in Maplewood. The fundraiser runs from 12-4 pm. Tickets available at the door or from the pipers. Always a good time. The Pipers practice at our Lodge and will be performing at our St. Patricks Dinner on Wednesday, March 14th. More details to follow about the St. Pat's Dinner.

Thanks again to all of you for your continued support of the Lodge.

Fraternally,

Bob Donnelly PER

Lodge Secretary

## TREASURERS REPORT

Entering our 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the Elks financial year (Fiscally, the Elks run on a 4/1-3/31 calendar year) I am happy to report that our Lodge continues to remain strong from a financial perspective. The continued success of the First Friday music nights, the Wednesday nights members night and all the party bookings have all contributed in a very positive way. In addition, I feel that we are doing a better job at controlling and monitoring our expenses (liquor, Lodge supplies, etc.)

That being said, we are always looking for new ways to fundraise and make our Lodge even better and stronger. Should anyone have any questions or have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Wishing everyone a very Healthy & Happy 2018!

Ron Housley

Treasurer

## SPECIAL CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

Happy New Year and welcome to 2018. The committee has been busy contacting those who will be going to Camp Moore this summer, and also those who will attend a respite for 2 weekends in the spring and fall. We are sending 20 children to Camp Moore this summer and several to respite weekends. Camp Moore is an amazing place and the kids always have a blast.

So that we can continue helping these wonderful children and their families, please help the SCC by supporting our fundraisers. There is the annual golf outing normally held in June. There are also the pull tabs at the lodge and we will be running a raffle in the next few months.

There is also the Special Childrens' Committee donation box on the bar in the grill room. Got change from a beverage you purchased? Put it in the box. The donation box is usually front and center on the bar by the beer taps – ya can't miss it.

Jim Walsh PDDGER  
SCC Chairman

## VETERANS COMMITTEE

Thanks to the membership for the response to this month's VA Book Drive. As you may know, the East Orange VA Hospital recently created a library, and they contacted the Elks for help filling it with books. We have received a great response and a lot of books from our lodge. We are also working with the West Orange lodge on this book drive. Jim Walsh and I, working with Bill from the West Orange lodge dropped off three carloads of books and clothing to the East Orange hospital last Monday. The staff at the hospital really appreciated the delivery. What's more, we still have another carload left to deliver and we are just waiting for the VA's OK to do so. If they still need more books, we'll let the membership know.

The next Blue Jean Ball benefit for the vets is scheduled to be held on April 21, 2018. Each lodge will be asked to purchase a table for \$350 which will be for 10 tickets. The venue is still being determined.

The dates for the Lyons and East Orange VA spring picnics are being planned.

Homeless Veterans project. The first donation of \$250 for welcome home kits, given on 10/7/2017, was appreciated by the committee, and we were then promptly reimbursed by Grand Lodge for the expenditure. We then sent another donation of, this time for \$500, and I was just notified by Kelly Mazzocchi that the supplies had been purchased and that the receipts for the purchases were on their way to us. Our lodge intends to continue these fully reimbursable donations for the foreseeable future.

John Dilley Sr

Veterans Committee Chairperson

## ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION (ENF)

Thanks to the generosity of our members our Lodge contributions to Elks National Foundation total \$1340 this year which comes to \$6.70 per member. This qualifies us for several national ENF Grants totaling thousands of dollars. This money goes to various community projects including our SO Elks Rent Party Garden, Special Olympics athletes, Scouting Leadership Camp, and Veterans support packages. January and February are Elks "Biggest Heart Challenge". Hearts are being sold at the bar for \$5 each and will be hung above the bar. All proceeds go to the Lodge ENF fund. Thanks again to all our members for helping our Lodge support the communities of South Orange and Maplewood.

Bob Donnelly PER

ENF Chairperson

## SCHOLARSHIPS

The Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship program has closed for this year. The Lodge received a number of applications. They were reviewed and judged and the highest scoring applications were forwarded to the District for the next level of judging. Good luck to all!!

Bob Donnelly PER

Scholarship Chairperson

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

I am happy to announce Jessica Perlmutter from South Orange will be representing our Lodge and competing in the NJ Elks State Hoop Shoot competition on Sunday Feb 11th in South Plainfield. Jessica will be competing in the girls 8-9 yrs. division. Good luck Jessica !!!!

Bob Donnelly PER

Youth Activities Chairperson

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The South Orange Elks 2nd Annual Blood Drive will be held on Saturday, April 21st at the Lodge. Please save the date and donate blood if you are able. Soft drinks and snacks will be available. The bar will be closed during the blood drive. Contact John Ramsburg, Esteemed Leading Knight, if you have any questions.

**IMPORTANT DATES & INFO**

**Calendar of Events**

**February**

- 2nd First Fridays 8pm
- 5th Lodge meeting 8pm (nominations of officers 2018-2019)
- 11th Roast Pork Dinner in West Orange (reunion fundraiser) 1pm- 4pm
- 19th Lodge meeting 8pm

**March**

- 2nd First Fridays 8pm
- 4th District VP vote in Nutley- PERs only
- 14th St. Patrick's Dinner

**SICKNESS & DISTRESS**

If someone you know is suffering from a medical, physical, financial or other crisis, please contact our Sickness & Distress Committee

Fraternally,  
James Walsh (201)207-1228

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For more up-to-the minute information about the lodge, our events, latest press or members info, please visit our website at:

**[SO Elks Website](#)**