



#1589 MILFORD ELKS

124 New haven Avenue, Milford, CT 06460 203-874-1589

milfordelks.com

FB: Milford Elks Lodge 1589

Exalted Ruler Message

Dear Fellow Elks,

As we charge ahead into May, I am hopeful that April showers are firmly behind us and that warmer days are ahead! There is so much happening this month, both within our Lodge walls and across the great state of Connecticut, so let's dive right in.

May is a time to remember. To remember who we are as Elks, what we stand for, and the meaningful charitable work we do in our communities every day. I had the pleasure of attending the District Deputy Clinic at the West Haven Lodge recently, and I came away with a few friendly reminders I'd like to share with all of you.



The Elks Great Migration — May 12–17

This is a multi-day walking journey that kicks off at Lodge #1 in Lynbrook, NY and concludes at the Westbrook, CT Lodge. Our Lodge will be a stop on the route on May 15th around 5:00 PM. I would love nothing more than to see a strong showing of our members to show them the kind of Elks pride that makes Lodge #1589 shine.

CT State Convention — May 29-30, Trumbull Marriott. Our Lodge is proud to be hosting the Coastal Hospitality Room. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Jim Garfield, PER, for leading the charge on this effort! Any members who would like to lend a hand for what is always a wonderful evening are warmly welcomed and deeply appreciated. Please visit CTElks.org for full details and schedule information.

National Convention — Chicago, July 5–8 For those of you thinking ahead to the National Convention in Chicago this summer, start making your plans! Among the many highlights, we will have the distinct honor of watching our very own Joseph Mager III, PER get installed as our Coastal District Deputy. It is going to be a proud moment for all of us.

A Note from the DD Clinic — It was a reminder that while the fun events, the fellowship, and the laughter we share inside our Lodge are wonderful things, it is equally important that we focus on what we do outside our Lodge. Our community work, our charitable giving, and our visibility as Elks in the broader world, that is where so much of our purpose lives. I encourage every member to keep that in mind as we move through this busy season.

Committee Chairperson Meeting — I will be scheduling a Committee Chairperson meeting soon. If you serve as a chairperson, please watch for that notice. I will do my best to find a time that works for as many of you as possible. Your work matters and I look forward to connecting.

May is Packed....Don't Miss Out! Please check the Lodge calendar, Facebook or the screens in the Taproom for the full lineup of events.

Wishing you all a warm, wonderful, and memorable May. As always, I am honored to serve as your Exalted Ruler and grateful for the spirit and dedication each of you brings to our Lodge family.

Mary H. Garfield, Exalted Ruler

MAY 2026

Lodge Meetings:
7:00pm 5th & 19th

OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler

Leading Knight

Loyal Knight

Lecturing Knight

Secretary

Treasurer

Esquire

Tiler

Chaplain

Inner Guard

Mary Garfield

Sarah Muoio

Erin Burke

Don Sanchez

David Field, PDD

Kelly O'Hara

Mary Ellen Patchell,
PER

Nicole Vartuli

Ray Bernor, PER

Caroline Butler

Trustees:

One-year

Dave Williams, PER,
PER Chair

Two-year

Danette Contaras,
PER

Three-year

Joseph Mager III,
PER

Four-year

James Garfield, PER

Five-year

Jennifer Vondle, PER

PER Assoc. President

David Williams, PER

Youth Activities Comm

Courtney and
Robert Black

Drug Awareness Comm.

Nicole Vartuli

Audit Committee

Jocelyn Eagle

House Committee

Jim Garfield and
Gerry Artz

Activities Committee

Jennifer Vondle, PER

Public Relations Comm.

Amy Potts, Sarah
Muoio, & Sue Bernor,
PER

Hall Rental

Danette Contaras
(203) 623-1991 or
Anne Marie Field
(203) 314-1831

Sickness & Distress

Sarah Muoio
(203)308-3147

sarahmuoio@icloud.com

Bulletin Editor

Amy Potts
(203) 305-3124

Elks1589PR@gmail.com

SECRETARY NOTES

Our new Lodge Officers have completed their first month in office and are off to a great start under the leadership of Exalted Ruler Mary Garfield.

Make sure you read your bulletin every month, so you don't miss any of the exciting things going on! We currently have 150 members who have not paid their dues. If you have not yet paid your dues for the 2026- 2027 Lodge year I ask you to please remit your payment as soon as you can so as not to become a delinquent member. \$40.00 of your dues goes to the Grand Lodge and our State Association to cover insurance, per capita fees, and the cost of the Elks magazine. We have already been assessed and remitted this cost for our total membership this year. We need your dues to offset this value of \$6,000 as it can impact some of our charitable programs.

May 1 – 7 is Youth Week!! Watch the bulletin, screens in the tab room and our Facebook page to see what activities are planned to recognize our young people.

NOTE: Due to a significant increase in cost, Lost or damaged Lounge access cards will cost \$10.00 to replace.

Also, if you ring the bell to gain entry to the Lodge instead of using your access key, put a donation in the tubes on the wall to your right as you enter.

Please contact me at MilfordLodge1589@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

- Delinquent Members: 150
- Reinstatements Pending: 0
- Applications to be read: 1.
- Candidates awaiting Investigation: 7
- Investigation: Monday, May 4, 2026
- Balloting: May 5, 2026
- Candidates awaiting Initiation: 4
- Initiation: May 19, 2026

Dave Field, PDD
Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear members, the BOD thanks Joe Leto, PDD, for doing an outstanding job as our BOD Chairman last lodge year. The Board welcomes Don Sanchez as Lecturing Knight; Jennifer Vondle, PER, as our 5 th year Trustee. The Board congratulates Mary Garfield on her installation as our new Exalted Ruler along with the rest of her team. If there are any concerns or questions from the membership, please speak to any of your Board of Directors.

The BOD will continue to meet once per month, normally scheduled for the Monday before the first Tuesday meeting of the month. The Board met on April 20, 2026 to discuss the items below:

The paving committee re-clarified the parking lot bids to the top three bidders for a fair comparison and presented it to the BOD. After discussion, the BOD will propose in accordance with G.L.A.S. , Subsection 16.050 a project to repair and replace the existing parking lot at the May 19, 2026 Lodge meeting. Please look for more information sent to all members from ER Mary Garfield.

- Discussion occurred about installing an electronic gate entrance to Antler Park. Due to the complexity & anticipated cost, the BOD decided to table the idea at this time.
- The BOD began discussions about the 2026/2027 Lodge year budget & plan to present it at the May 19, 2026 Lodge meeting for a vote.
- The BOD has begun looking at a 401(k) option through the State of CT for our employees; no employer match will be provided.
- The BOD discussed putting some lodge money in Bank CD's. It was tabled to prioritize the parking lot project at this time.
- Thank you to Bruce Buzelle who will continue to handle grass cutting this year and take on additional landscaping work.
- A Lodge Spring Cleanup will be Sunday May 17 from 9AM-2PM. Help is needed for various projects. A list is currently being developed.

Fraternally yours,

Dave Williams, PER
Chairman Elect, BOD

Joe Leto, PDD
Past Chairman, BOD

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

May is here, bringing longer days, warmer weather, and a fresh energy all around us. It is the perfect time to get out, reconnect, and enjoy all that is happening at the Lodge. We would love to see everyone coming together and making the most of this beautiful spring season.

April was a wonderful month, filled with fun and giving back. From line dancing lessons, Friday night music, karaoke, and weekly game nights, to rounding out the month with our incredible group of men and women who proudly participated in the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event, it was a beautiful reminder of what makes our Lodge so special.

May promises to be just as exciting. Join us on May 2nd for our Kentucky Derby celebration. Wear your favorite hat, enjoy games, watch the race, and stay as we present last lodge year's awards followed by karaoke.

The fun continues with line dancing on May 15th, karaoke on May 16th, live music on Friday evenings, and game nights every Sunday. We are also proud to be an official stop for the Elks Migration in support of Special Olympics on May 15th, with participants arriving at our Lodge at 5:00 pm. Come down to cheer them on or join them for part of the walk, and please see flyers for donation information.

Take a moment this month to celebrate Mother's Day and the special women in our lives, honoring the love, strength, and care they bring each day.

As we honor Memorial Day, we invite members to join us for Decoration of the Graves on May 23rd at Saint Mary's Cemetery, and on May 25th for the Veterans Wreath Laying Ceremony at the WWI Doughboy Monument at Milford City Hall, followed by the Milford Memorial Day Parade.

All are welcome at our Activities Meeting on May 7th at 6:30 pm. We would love to see new faces and hear your ideas.

Be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page and Lodge calendar for event details and updates. We look forward to a fun, meaningful, and vibrant spring together at the Lodge.

Jennifer P Vondle, PER, Activities Chair
jennifervondle@gmail.com, 203-823-6313



HOUSE COMMITTEE

Jim Garfield & Jerry Artz - HC Co-Chairs

Weekly Specials:

- Mondays:** All day roast beef sandwiches \$9.00
Draft night specials (Domestics) 5-10 pm
Monday night Jack Box Trivia 7-9pm
(no trivia on holidays) (starting May 11th)
- Tuesdays:** Wine it down Tuesdays – Wine Specials
- Wednesdays:** Frozen cocktail specials
- Thursdays:** \$6.00 Zuppardi's personal pizzas
Bottles Night (Domestics) specials
5pm-close
- Fridays:** Kitchen open 5:30-8:30pm
Martini specials
- Saturdays:** Kitchen open 12-8:30pm
Martini specials
- Sundays:** Every Sunday pot luck day
Game day 3pm

Holiday Specials in May

Cinco de Mayo: Drink specials - Specialty Margaritas (spicy-peach-coconut-original), Paloma's, Mexican mules, Coronas. Bring your best app or dip to spice up the celebration

Kentucky Derby: Drink specials - Mint Julep, Kentucky Oaks Lilly, Woodford Reserve Spire, Whisky Smash

Mother's Day: Drink Specials - Bloody Marys, Prosecco, Mimosas, Aperol spritz

Memorial Day: Open 12-8pm - Drink Specials - Frozen Cocktails, Bourbon Peach Iced Teas, Rum Runners. We will have kitchen open w/ limited menu

TAPROOM HOURS

- Mondays 12-10pm
- Tuesdays 4-11pm
- Wednesdays 4-11pm
- Thursdays 4-11pm
- Fridays 2-12am
- Saturdays 12pm-12pm
- Sundays 12pm-10pm

ELK OF THE MONTH - Brian Ashcroft

The barstools in our Taproom continue to show their age, most of us walked past them, sat down carefully, and hoped for the best. Not Brian Ashcroft. Without being asked, without fanfare, and apparently without a single complaint, Brian rolled up his sleeves and repaired every single one of them, because that's just who he is! If something needs doing, Brian doesn't wait for a committee, a vote, or a work order. He just does it.

Brian embodies the spirit of this Lodge in every sense. He is the kind of Elk who shows up! Not just when his name is called, but before some even know his name. Whether it's lending a hand, offering support, or quietly making sure the people around him are comfortable (and no longer at risk of an unexpected trip to the floor), Brian gives generously of his time and talent. It is with great pride and gratitude that we name him our Elk of the Month, a well-earned honor for a man who never does anything just for the honor. Thank you Brian!

TIP OF THE ANTLERS

A heartfelt Tip of the Antlers goes out to five gentlemen who have given their time, expertise, and boundless patience over the course of several months to tackle one of the Lodge's most important upcoming projects, the parking lot remediation. **James Garfield PER and House Committee Co-Chair, Jerry Artz - House Committee Co-Chair, Joe Mager III PER, Dave Williams PER, and Joe Leto PDD** formed an allegiance, met with multiple companies, carefully vet each bid, and ensured that every proposal truly aligned with the scope and standards of work our Lodge deserves. This was no small undertaking; it required coordination, follow-through, and more than a few conversations about asphalt that most people would not volunteer for.

Together and individually, these gentlemen made sure no stone, sinkhole or pothole, was left unturned. We are now approaching the finish line, and once our members gather to vote on May 21st, we are confident that the decision made will reflect the careful groundwork this team has laid. A beautiful new parking lot may not sound glamorous, but it will be one of the first things every member and guest sees when they arrive at our Lodge, and thanks to the dedication of these five, it will be something we are proud of for many years to come. Gentlemen, your Lodge is grateful. Thank you!

WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES - April 26th

What an amazing group of walkers!! THANK YOU for walking, donating and cheering the team on. This fundraiser beat out last years amount and hit over \$51,000!!!! Thank you thank you. This small but mighty agency has helped over 600 victims this year 150 were children. They also go to schools starting at pre-k and go right up through College educating them in the towns they serve (over 1300 students served) ALL of their services are provided FREE!!

Our team was amazing!! And we look forward to building this for next year!



CANDIDATES

Jesse Frye	Proposed
Dante Adams	Investigation
Gary Baker	Investigation
Patricia Casey	Investigation
Timothy Hey	Investigation
Dominique Kolodziejczk	Investigation
Peter Phelan III	Investigation
Lily Zagami	Investigation
Jennifer Biela	Initiation
Christine DelValle	Initiation
Laina Kominos	Initiation
Heather Pumphrey	Initiation

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS INITIATION MAY 2026



MEMBERSHIP DUES

IF YOU HAVE PAID YOUR 2026-2027 MEMBERSHIP DUES: Ask the Steward on duty in the taproom. If you have questions please reach out to David Field, Secretary.

IF YOU HAVE **NOT** PAID YOUR 2026-2027 MEMBERSHIP DUES: Your membership card will not give you access to the taproom. You will have to buzz in and pay your dues to continue to visit.

PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN PARKING SPOTS DESIGNATED FOR MEMBERS.

(Elk of the Month, Elk of the Year, Officer of the Year, Exalted Ruler, Lodge Steward and HC Chair)

They worked hard to get those parking spots!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Wish another member Happy Birthday. Stop in the month of your Birthday and start the day you choose to celebrate your birthday with us and both you and your significant other will receive a complimentary drink of your choice.

- 1 George Derbabian
- 2 William Hoben, Jennifer Miller, Wendy Stowell
- 4 Ron Gambardella, Ralph Malafronte, Melissa Wasik
- 5 Barry Boland, Ronald Tirpak
- 6 John Demore, Joseph Nesteriak
- 7 James Hessberger, Ryan Tobin
- 8 George Chelednik, Wesley Christensen, Gregory Hart
- 9 James Morse
- 10 Christopher Fresilli, Francis Walsh, Daniel Williams
- 11 Celeste Falcone, Scott Savo
- 12 Anne Marie Field, Michael Julian, Jesse Viscardi
- 13 Caitlin Contaras
- 14 Thomas Agria, Daniel Kushman, Kelly Michael O'Hara, David Smith
- 15 Ronald Benkoski, Lori Brescia, Michael McCormack
- 16 Naim Munawar, Ray Ramadon, Richard Smith
- 17 Michael Lonergan
- 18 Charles Brown, Kevin Kozek, Robert Muoio
- 19 Thomas List, Joseph Tamagni
- 20 John Joseph Edmonds, Robert Fantarella, Lisa Mitchals
- 21 Diane Behringer
- 22 Jerome Larracuenta
- 23 Michael Hudd
- 24 Scott Harrison, James Kiely, Erin Patchell, Peter Smith
- 26 Mike Coplan, Susan Stokes
- 27 Lindsey Abbotts, Ronald Kilinski
- 28 William Lesko
- 29 Judith O'Connor, Joshua Petro
- 30 Melissa Hart, William Stevens
- 31 David Bednarik, Katelyn Jennings, Eileen Richetelli

May 31st - May Birthday Celebration

RIDERS' CORNER

Hello Members,

Riding season is here, and the Milford Elks Riders are off to a great start!

Please note our May meeting has been moved to Monday, May 18 at 7:00 PM due to Memorial Day.

This past weekend, our Riders had a strong showing at the Westbrook Elks Lodge Patch-In Ceremony. It was a great representation and a fantastic event all around.

Now we're gearing up for our 2nd Annual Bike Night on Sunday, June 7 at 11:00 AM! Everyone is invited! It's shaping up to be an awesome day with food, music, vendors, raffles, prizes, event T-shirts, a bike blessing, and a short group ride. Best of all, proceeds will go to a very special cause to be announced soon!

\$10 donation at the door—bring your friends and come be part of it. Let's make this our biggest year yet!

Fraternally,
Jim Garfield, PER
Milford Elks Riders President

Cinco de Mayo *Drink Specials*

TUES. MAY 05

Bring your best app or dip to spice up the celebration

Can and Bottle Drive

Sunday, March 1st
10 AM- 2 PM

Bring your bottles and cans and let your friends know.



Volunteers needed to sort glass bottles, plastic bottles and cans.

Milford Elks Stop
Friday
May 15th
approx. 5pm

Come down and welcome our fellow Elks !

Donations for Special Olympics

Envelope behind the bar-fill out your name on the tag to display.

The Great ELKS MIGRATION 106 MILE WALK
NY ELKS #1 LYNBROOK-WESTBROOK #1784
MAY 12 - MAY 17, 2026
Support Team Molly!
Special Olympics Connecticut

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT RUSS: (860) 304-1415
SCAN ME TO MAKE A DONATION VISIT givo.socct.org/elksmigration
LEARN MORE AT WWW.SOCCT.ORG

Milford Elks

LODGE CLEANUP

What is your specialty? Do you enjoy gardening, organizing, cleaning or painting? There is many options when it comes to helping make our lodge an enjoyable place to be.

Time: 9:00AM - 2:00PM
Date: SUN. MAY 17

- Painting
- Gardening
- Mulching
- Driveway Blowing
- Sanding
- Debris Clean Up
- Picnic Table Cleaning
- Line Painting

Contact Dave Williams with any questions.

SIGN UP AT LODGE

MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER & HONOR

Saturday, May 23rd at 8:00 am
Flag Laying at St. Mary's Cemetery

Sunday, May 24th at 9:45 am
Wreath Laying at City Hall
(then march to each monument on the green)

Sunday, May 24th
Memorial Day Parade
(2pm start meet at Wasson Field)

Past Exalted Rulers' Annual

SURF & TURF

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

 5pm Appetizers
6pm Dinner 

See Steward for Tickets

\$45.00
Per Person

Members and Guests

No Tickets
Sold After
June 6th

**HOW DO YOU LIKE
OUR NEW FORMAT
FOR THE BULLETIN?**

Let Mary Garfield know!

SMOKERS' ROOM UPDATE:

We have updated the smoking room in the lounge. If you haven't been in a while come check out the clean and relaxing change. And for non-smokers come in to take a peak at the room, it doesn't smell as smokey as it used to! Cigar smokers are welcome.



MEMBERS' BUSINESS ADS

If you are interested in having an ad in this bulletin, please contact Amy Potts amy@aapk.com.

Business card ad - \$10/month for a year

1/2 page ad - \$15/month for a year



DocuCollections.com
We document your collections

*Have your valuables inventoried to protect them.
Great for insurance and estate planning purposes.*

Amy Potts, Owner
203-305-3124

Not an appraisal service

MEMBER NOTIFICATION

Dear members,

For some time, The Milford Elks and its officers have been working diligently to determine how to remediate our deteriorating parking lot and bring it back to its former state.

The Board of Directors has been in discussions with various contractors over the past six months to plan out possible projects and gets bids on the same.

The Board has decided to move forward with a full replacement of the parking lot and refurbishment of the adjoining Lodge property.

This topic will be discussed at the second regular Lodge meeting that is scheduled on Tuesday, May 19th at 7:00PM in the Lodge Hall.

At this meeting, the Board of Directors will present its proposed selection of a contractor and bid for a full parking lot replacement to the Lodge for approval. Members who are interested in hearing about this project, who have inquiries, or who wish to support or object to the contractor or bid should be present.

Please see below for the formal notification.

Mary Garfield, Exalted Ruler



BPOE No. 1589 Milford
Lodge Meeting
21 April 2026 | 7:00pm – 8:30pm

"The faults of our members we write upon the sand,
their virtues on the tablets of love and memory"

PROPOSAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH G.L.A.S. § 16.050

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Milford Lodge No. 1589 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (hereinafter the "Lodge") propose a project to repair and replace the existing parking lot.

WHEREAS, this proposal is submitted to the membership of the Lodge in accordance with Grand Lodge Annotated Statutes §16.050(d) and §16.050(k).

WHEREAS, the purpose of the project is to remediate the entire parking lot, sink holes, and curbing. The project also includes the installation of concrete pads and strips to protect the asphalt from wear and tear caused from heavy machinery, vehicles, motorcycle kickstands, and storage of heavy items utilized by the Lodge such as the dumpster.

WHEREAS, the amount to be expended on the project is \$125,604.67 (ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED FOUR DOLLARS AND SIXTY SEVEN CENTS).

WHEREAS, the amount of indebtedness to be created to the Lodge is \$125,604.67 (ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED FOUR DOLLARS AND SIXTY SEVEN CENTS). The proposed term of the loan shall be 15 years at an interest rate not to exceed 7%. The monthly payment shall be no more than \$1,128.97.

WHEREAS, the Property to be encumbered by way of a lien or mortgage to finance the project is owned by the Lodge and located at 124 New Haven Avenue in Milford, Connecticut.

WHEREAS, the persons authorized to act on behalf of the Lodge are to be the Mary Garfield, Exalter Ruler and David Williams, PER, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

WHEREAS, the Lodge shall receive the loan proceeds in the amount of \$125,604.67 (ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED FOUR DOLLARS AND SIXTY SEVEN CENTS).

WHEREFORE, a vote on this project shall occur on the Lodge floor at a regular or special meeting at least two (2) weeks, but not more than eight (8) weeks, from the date of this Proposal.

WHEREFORE, such notice of the vote to occur at a regular or special meeting shall be provided to the membership at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the scheduled meeting.

Fraternally Yours,

David G. Williams, PER

May 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Live Music taproom 7-10pm	12-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu Kentucky Derby Lodge Awards Karaoke 7:30pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Can & Bottle Drive 10am-2pm Pot Luck Sunday Game Night 6:30pm	Roast Beef Sandwiches beginning at 12 noon	Lodge Meeting 7:00pm CINCO DE MAYO!		Activities Com- mittee Meeting 6:30pm	5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Live Music taproom 7-10pm	12-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Pot Luck Sunday Game Night 6:30pm	Roast Beef Sandwiches beginning at 12 noon				5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Elks Migration Stop 6-10pm Country Line Dancing Live Music taproom 7-10pm	12-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Karaoke 7:30pm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Pot Luck Sunday Game Night 6:30pm	Roast Beef Sandwiches beginning at 12 noon House Committee Meeting 7pm	Lodge Meeting 7:00pm (Initiation)			5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Live Music taproom 7-10pm	Decoration of the Graves, St. Mary's Cemetery 8am 5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Wreath Laying 9:45am Memorial Day Parade 2:00pm Kitchen - limited menu	Memorial Day Picnic in Antler Park 12pm				5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Live Music taproom 7-10pm	5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu
30	VOLUNTEER TO ADD MORE EVENTS TO THIS CALENDAR EVERY MONTH GOT AN IDEA? SHARE IT WITH ANYONE ON PAGE 2					
Pot Luck Sunday Game Night 6:30pm						