

MILFORD LODGE NO. 1589
BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE
ORDER OF ELKS
124 NEW HAVEN AVENUE
MILFORD, CT 06460-4827
PHONE: 203-874-1589

January 2026

**Milford Elks
Lodge
1589**

Milford, CT

203-874-1589

LODGE MEETINGS
January 6th and 20th
7:00pm

January 2026 Taproom Hours

Monday	5:00pm—11:00pm
Tuesday	4:00pm—10:00pm
Wednesday	4:00pm—10:00pm
Thursday	4:00pm—11:00pm
Friday	3:00pm—12:00am
Saturday	12:00pm—12:00am
Sunday	12:00pm—9:00pm

Officers

Exalted Ruler
 Leading Knight
 Loyal Knight
 Lecturing Knight
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Esquire
 Tiler
 Chaplain
 Inner Guard

Jennifer Vondle
 Mary Garfield
 Sarah Muoio
 Erin Burke
 David Field, PDD
 Kelly O'Hara
 Mary Ellen Patchell, PER
 Don Sanchez
 Julia Townsend
 Caroline Butler

Trustees:

One-year
 Two-year
 Three-year
 Four-year
 Five-year
 PER Association President
 Youth Activities Committee
 Drug Awareness Committee
 Audit Committee
 House Committee
 Activities Committee
 Public Relations Committee

Joseph Leto, PDD, PER Chair
 Danette Contaras, PER
 David Williams, PER
 Joseph Mager III, PER
 James Garfield, PER
 Joseph Mager III, PER
 Robert Black
 Mary Ellen Patchell, PER
 Kevin Kozek
 Lexi Black & Morgan Vondle
 Mary Garfield
 Amy Potts, Sarah Muoio,
 & Sue Bernor, PER

Hall Rental

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

Sickness & Distress

Mary Garfield
 (203)906-5693
 maryhgarfield@gmail.com

Bulletin Editor
 (203) 305-3124

Amy Potts
 Elks1589PR@gmail.com

Birthdays - January

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 David Newman, Jr
- 2 Samuel Goron
- 3 Kristen Mari Hunt, Robert Morin, Alan Paschke.
Scott Stillings
- 4 Bridget Braney
- 5 Anthony Vartuli
- 7 Beth Artz, Susan Bedworth. Brian Carey. Thomas Caruso.
John Cleri, Michele Dark, Susan Laffin
- 8 Michael Cavallaro
- 9 John Canavan
- 10 Melissa Hanson, Steven Zahariades
- 11 John Henson, Philip Hessberger, Morgan Kiely, Chris Morse
- 12 Charles Hart, Michael Pyne
- 13 Thomas Moore
- 14 Michael Rayher
- 16 Robert Thomas
- 18 James Connelly, Joseph Leto, Jr, William Norberg
- 19 Austin James
- 20 John Deangelis, Leigh Hunt
- 21 Nancy Natale
- 22 James Rogers
- 24 Vaughan Dumas, Kathryn Renz
- 25 Margarita Hartley Moore, Darrin O'Brien
- 27 Manny Caldwell
- 28 John Sheridan
- 29 Brian Ragozzine
- 31 Kathleen Biggs

January Birthday Celebration
 January 25th @ 5pm!!



What's Happening

SAVE THE DATE

ELKS RIDERS Patch-In Ceremony

Saturday February 28th
6-11pm

\$25.00/person - includes food, band, ceremony and fun!
Raffle prizes and cash bar.



Friday Night Live Music Taproom 7-10pm

January 9 - DM Slide
January 16 - YES MA'AM Acoustic
January 23 - Pete Grossi
January 30 - Elana Zabari

Exalted Ruler Message

Dear Members,

As we begin a new year together, January is a time for reflection, gratitude, and renewed purpose. The holiday season reminded us of the true meaning of Elkdom—coming together in kindness, generosity, and service to others. Throughout December, the Milford Elks Lodge was alive with compassion, fellowship, and a shared commitment to supporting one another and our community.

December was truly a season of giving, fellowship, and community—made possible by the incredible members and volunteers of the Milford Elks Lodge. It was truly a season of giving, fellowship, and community—made possible by the incredible members and volunteers of the Milford Elks Lodge.

Our Thursday Night Supper Club continues to be a big hit, bringing members together for great food and even better company. Thank you to everyone who attends and supports this ongoing tradition, and be sure to check the calendar for January dates.

December was especially magical for our youngest community members during the Children's Christmas Party. With the help of so many dedicated volunteers, the event was filled with joy, laughter, and holiday cheer. A special thank you goes to Robbie and Courtney Black for running and organizing such an amazing celebration and making it truly memorable for the children and their families.

We also enjoyed the warmth of togetherness at the House Committee Christmas Party and New Year's Celebration, a wonderful way to celebrate the season and welcome the year ahead as a Lodge family.

Through the Christmas Dinner Baskets and our Christmas Dinner, we were able to support those facing food insecurity in our community. We also had a very successful collection of hats, gloves, scarves, and socks, which were distributed at the Christmas Dinner to help keep members of our community warm during the winter months. These efforts are a true reflection of what it means to Be the Difference, and they remind us of the powerful impact we can have when we come together in service.

(Continued on next page)

What's Happening

EXALTED RULER MESSAGE (Con't)

Looking ahead, the Connecticut Elks Mid-Year Convention for 2026 is scheduled for Saturday, January 10, 2026, at the Willimantic Elks Lodge, with registration beginning at 8:00 AM for those who wish to attend. There are also many exciting events on the horizon, including Friday Night Music in the Tap Room and other opportunities to connect, volunteer, and enjoy Lodge life.

To every volunteer who gave their time, energy, and heart this past month—thank you. No matter how big or small your contribution, it was seen, felt, and deeply appreciated, especially by those whose lives were touched by your kindness. Thank you for making these moments happen and for continuing to embody the spirit of Elkdom.

May the new year bring health, happiness, and continued opportunities to serve one another and our community.
Warmest wishes,

Jennifer P Vondle , Exalted Ruler
jennifervondle@gmail.com
203-823-6313

Elk of the Month

Danette Contaras

We are proud to recognize Danette Contaras as our Elk of the Month. Danette truly exemplifies the heart of Elkdom and what it means to Be the Difference. Much of Danette's work happens quietly behind the scenes—details and tasks that ensure our Lodge traditions and events run smoothly. From wreaths for ceremonies, to organizing Flag Day and the Memorial Ceremony, to offering encouragement and support whenever it's needed, Danette is always there.

For many years, she has also been the heart of our Christmas Basket program, shopping, organizing, and making sure items reach those in need. Her compassion, dedication, and generosity make a lasting impact on both our Lodge and our community.

Thank you, Danette, for all you do—seen and unseen.

What's Happening

Can and Bottle Drive

Sunday, January 4th

10 AM- 2 PM

Bring your bottles and cans and let your friends know.

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



Activities Committee

Greetings, Fellow Elks!

I hope everyone survived the holiday season with their waistlines and their sanity relatively intact! Here's wishing all our members and their families a very Merry Christmas (even if it's now in the rearview mirror) and a Happy New Year. Let's make 2026 another fantastic year for Lodge #1589 because if we're going to spend time together, we might as well have a blast doing it!

We have Live music in the taproom each Friday night in January starting January 9th! See dates and bands below but with the unpredictability of the weather there may be slight changes, so check before heading to the lodge. Members and their guests are invited. Let's show these talented musicians what Elks support looks like! Let's pack the taproom!

Friday Night Music
January 9 - DM Slide
January 16 - YES MA'AM Acoustic
January 23 - Pete Grossi
January 30 - Elana Zabari

Our tried-and-true favorites continue to keep the good times rolling: Karaoke (where we prove that enthusiasm counts more than talent), game nights (where friendly competition occasionally gets very competitive), and country line dancing (boots optional but encouraged). We're also cooking up plans for 3 Mixed Tape Match Music Bingo events for 2026. If you've got an idea for an event you'd like to host or help organize, please join us at the January Activities Committee meeting, we're always looking for fresh ideas and willing volunteers!

Stay in the loop by reading the newsletter, checking out our lodge's Virtual Lounge on Facebook, or swinging by the taproom to check the activities monitor. If Facebook is giving you trouble or you can't figure out how to find the Virtual Lounge, just let me know. Here's to a year full of fun, fellowship, and friendship!

Cheers!

Mary H. Garfield (203-906-5693)
Leading Knight & Activities Committee Chair

Secretary Notes

Members All,

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe Holiday season! I wish you all an incredibly happy and healthy New Year's. Let us make 2026 another great year.

NOTICE: Our dues for the 2026 – 2027 Lodge year will remain the same at \$125 for Regular Members and \$65 for Life Members. You will be receiving your Membership Dues notification in January. Please remember the expedient remittance of your dues will be greatly appreciated. If for any reason you are having difficulty in paying your dues please contact me in strict confidence, we want to do all we can to keep your membership.

There are still 33 members who have not paid their dues. Final notice will be sent out to them in January. These members are in danger of being dropped. Per our Statutes, a dropped member is considered an "Elk not in Good Standing" and as such is not allowed the benefits of the Lounge. They cannot come in on their own and they cannot be signed in as a guest. If you know a member who is delinquent, please reach out to them to make their membership current.

As we begin the last quarter of the Lodge year, I can tell you that your House Committee and Activities Committee are planning several events to end the year on a positive note. Please consult the bulleting for more information.

Also coming in February are nominations and election of Lodge Officers for the 2026 – 2027 Lodge Year. We are looking to fill several very important offices, most notably the Esteemed Lecturing Knight. This position is vital to the administration of the Lodge business and the promotion of Elkdom in our community. This is an extremely important time for our Lodge, please support this process and consider accepting a position.

If you have moved recently, please remember to notify me of your new address. Don't miss out on any of the great activities and opportunities we have by not providing your current address.

Lastly, everyone has been given an electronic key card to open the door to the Lounge. Please use your card instead of ringing the bell for entry. This requires the Steward to stop working and question you as to why you rang the bell and then see your card. Also, you are expected to put a dollar into the tubes for the children's medical center. Key cards that are lost can be replaced for a \$5.00 Fee.

- Applications to be read: 1
- Candidates awaiting Investigation: 8
- Investigation: January 5, 2026
- Balloting: January 20, 2026
- Awaiting Initiation: 7
- Initiation: January 6, 2026

Dave Field, PDD
Secretary

Tip of the Antlers

Tip of the Antlers – Sue Bernor

A heartfelt Tip of the Antlers to Sue Bernor and all of the volunteers who made the Christmas Dinner possible. Through their time and dedication, those facing food insecurity were able to enjoy a warm meal and a sense of belonging on Christmas Day. Thank you for truly making a difference.

Tip of the Antlers – Jim Garfield

A sincere Tip of the Antlers to Jim Garfield and his friend Don for their guest chef meal of Sloppy Joes. Members truly enjoyed the meal and the fellowship it created. Thank you for your generosity and for helping make the Lodge such a welcoming place.

Tip of the Antlers – House Committee

A big Tip of the Antlers to the House Committee, all volunteers, and everyone who attended the Christmas Party. From start to finish, it was a wonderful event filled with great food, fun, and Elkdom. Thank you for making it such a memorable celebration.

Tip of the Antlers – Michael Payne

A sincere Tip of the Antlers to Michael Payne for stepping in to help troubleshoot the karaoke machine. His willingness to jump in kept a favorite Lodge activity going and showed what it truly means to Be the Difference. Thank you for your initiative and support.

Tip of the Antlers – Dave Litvinoff

A sincere Tip of the Antlers to Dave Litvinoff for his generous donation of hats, gloves, and socks distributed on Christmas Day. His kindness provided warmth and comfort to those in need and reflects the true spirit of service. Thank you, Dave, for making a meaningful impact.

What's Happening

Milford Elks 

Country Line Dancing



Friday
January 9th
7 pm

CANDIDATES

Gabriella Salati	Proposed
Nicholas Art	Investigation
Carmen Ouellet-Artz	Investigation
Fred Baldien	Investigation
Courtney Black	Investigation
Danielle Bourque	Investigation
Glorena Consedine	Investigation
Raymond Paskiewicz	Investigation
Alexis Szymecki	Investigation
Steven Bernardini	Initiation
Joseph Birarelli	Initiation
Eileen Fetchick	Initiation
Ryan McAllister	Initiation
Chris Munz	Initiation
Tom Raab	Initiation
William Sheehan III	Initiation

Board of Directors Corner

Members All,

The BOD meets once per month, normally scheduled for the Monday before the first Tuesday meeting of the month.

The Board met on December 15, 2025. The major topic of the meeting was again the parking lot, with the discussion centering on funding. More than likely, the paving will have to be done in phases. At our January meeting we will start the process of putting together the proper documents and paperwork required by Grand Lodge. We will be looking for ideas for raising money. If you have an idea lets discuss it and see what can be done.

The new ice machine in the tap room is still having problems. Have no fear; Gerry is on the case and will have a solution shortly. Whatever it takes, Gerry makes sure that machine is making ice. Hopefully in the next week or so, he will have a full time working ice maker.

As Board Chairman I have had several discussions with our snow plowing service with regard to having the lot plowed and cleaned before the Lodge opens.

It is their responsibility to see all stairs, entrances, walkways, and parking areas are clear of snow and ice within a reasonable time once the storm ends, and prior to the Lodge opening. For times when extra salt is required, there are buckets at each entrance.

The new hall rental agreement was tabled until the next meeting at which time the Board will discuss the details of the new contract. Once discussions are over, the Board will vote on implementation of the new contract.

If you have any questions or concerns please speak to me, or any of your Board Members. Dave Williams PER, Danette Contaras PER, Joe Mager III PER, Jim Garfield PER, Exalted Ruler Jennifer Vondle, Leading Knight Mary Garfield, Loyal Knight Sarah Muoio, Lecturing Knight Erin Burke, Secretary Dave Field PDD, and Treasurer Kelly O'Hara.

Fraternally yours,
Joe Leto, PDD - Chairman, BOD

House Committee Notes

KITCHEN MENU

Thu, January 1st	NEW YEARS DAY- TAPROOM CLOSED
Fri, January 2nd	5-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Sat, January 3rd	12-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Fri, January 9th	5-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Sat, January 10th	12-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Thu, January 15th	Thursday Night Supper 6-8 pm (Rigatoni Bolognese w Garlic Bread)
Fri, January 16th	5-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Sat, January 17th	12-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Fri, January 23rd	5-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Sat, January 24th	12-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Thu, January 29th	Thursday Night Supper 6-8 pm (Beef Chili with the fixins')
Fri, January 30th	5-8:30 PM Kitchen Menu
Sat, January 31st	12-8:30 PM Kitchen Menu

Hello, my fellow Elks!

As always, we would like to give a big "THANK YOU" to everyone for another successful month at the lodge. December was filled with many memorable moments. We truly appreciate the support. We loved our Member Christmas Party on December 20th. It was a joyous time with great food, friends, family karaoke and laughter. Thank you to everyone that came as well as those that donated something to enjoy. We will be having a Potluck Style NYE where the House committee will also be putting out some appetizers. As a reminder, the taproom will be CLOSED New Years Day so our stewards can enjoy the day with their friends and family. Sunday hours are still from Noon to close in the Taproom and are Potluck. Please bring something that you enjoy or something you love to make for other members to try. We ask that you continue to head down to the lodge and support our amazing stewards, as they would like to see everyone's beautiful faces. Don't be a stranger.

Just a friendly reminder that NO ONE should go behind the bar in the taproom unless you are working on shift, or you are on the House Committee, and the Steward has given you permission.

As always, we would like to say thank you for allowing us this opportunity and we would appreciate the continued support of our Elks Family. Our contact information is below if you have any thoughts or questions. Can't wait to see you at our next meeting on Wednesday December 10th at 6pm.

*Food Joke of the month- A sandwich walks into a bar and takes a seat, the bartender looks at him and says, "I'm sorry, but we don't serve food!"

Respectfully,
House Committee Co-Chairs, Alexis Black, bobnlex@aol.com 203-214-6911
Morgan Vondle, mdv724@gmail.com 203-313-6644

January 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1			1	2	3
			HAPPY NEW YEAR!	TAP ROOM CLOSED	5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu	12-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu Karaoke 7:30pm
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Can & Bottle Drive 10am-2pm Pot Luck Sunday		Lodge Meeting (Initiation) 7:00pm	House Committee Meeting 6pm Game Night 6:30pm		5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Country Line Dancing Live Music taproom 7-10pm	12-8:30pm Kitchen Menu
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Pot Luck Sunday		Activities Committee Meeting 7:00pm	Game Night 6:30pm	Thurs Night Sup- per 6-8pm Rigatoni Bolog- nese	5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Live Music taproom 7-10pm	12-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Karaoke 7:30pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Pot Luck Sunday		Lodge Meeting 7:00pm	Game Night 6:30pm		5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Live Music taproom 7-10pm	12-8:30pm Kitchen Menu
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Pot Luck Sunday January Birthdays 5pm	Elks Riders Mtg 7pm		Game Night 6:30pm	Thurs Night Sup- per 6-8pm Beef Chili	5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Live Music taproom 7-10pm	12-8:30pm Kitchen Menu

VOLUNTEER TO ADD MORE EVENTS TO THIS CALENDAR EVERY MONTH

GOT AN IDEA? SHARE IT WITH ANYONE ON PAGE 2