

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

February 2026

**Milford Elks
Lodge
1589**

Milford, CT

203-874-1589

LODGE MEETINGS
February 3rd and 17th
7:00pm

February 2026 Taproom Hours

Monday	5:00pm—9:00pm
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 - February

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 Linda Shackleton, Brian Thomas
2 Kelly Hanson, Patrick Rouse
5 Joseph McFarland
6 Kelsey Marie Brandon, Sean Kirkman, Roque Sanchez
7 Louis Hunt
8 Hugh Mullin, Caroline Ruddy
9 Lisa Mizzzone, Daniel Steeves
10 David Hasselman, Shannon Hearn
12 Frederick Richetelli
14 Robert Ross, Quentin Smith
16 Cosmo Valletta
17 Stephen Bagoly, Donald German
18 James Tweedie
21 John Vargovchik
22 Raymond Bernor, Patrick Dew
23 Edward Austin, Robert Bartoszewicz, Edward Pohl, Jr.,
Edward Zuscin
24 Frank Albert Musante
25 James Betzig, Danette Contaras, Mary Olsen
26 Kimberly Gresko, Michael Lynch, Adair McCormack
27 Amirage Pittman
28 Patrick Walsh

January/February Birthday Celebration
February 22nd @ 5pm!!



What's Happening

8-BALL POOL TOURNAMENT
Saturday, February 21

\$20 Per Player **11:30 Sign In**
12:00 Start **Only 16 Spots Available**

Entry includes a meal ticket
 (choice of 2 hot dogs, a cheeseburger or chicken with fries)
 and a beer or White Claw seltzer

Sign up in Taproom with Steward

Exalted Ruler Message

Dear Members,

This month has truly been another special one at our Lodge. Even as the colder weather and snow have settled in, our Lodge has remained warm with friendship, laughter, and shared moments. Winter has not slowed us down at all, and it was especially nice to welcome the New Year surrounded by such a wonderful group of members and families.

On January 10th, I was proud to attend the Mid Year Convention at Willimantic Lodge 1311 along with six fellow Milford delegates. It was a great day of learning and connection. We were fortunate to hear a moving presentation by Mike Mason from the Special Olympics, highlighting the incredible work they do. We also took part in important bylaw votes and learned more about the many opportunities available to us as Elks, which continues to remind us how special this organization truly is.

Our Lodge continues to grow and thrive as we welcome new members and enjoy spending time together. Supper Club Thursdays and Music on Fridays have been wonderful opportunities to relax, connect, and build friendships. Please be sure to check the calendar, our Facebook page, and the activities section so you can join us for all the fun planned in the weeks ahead.

It is hard to believe how quickly this Lodge year has gone. As we move forward, we begin the important process of planning for the upcoming Lodge year, including leadership transitions and committee involvement. This is a wonderful time to get involved, learn more about how our Lodge operates, and find areas where you may like to contribute. I encourage you to attend meetings, ask questions, and see where your interests may fit as we prepare for the year ahead.

This month we are also sharing the love through our Hearts for the Elks National Foundation fundraiser. For a ten dollar donation, you can write a personal message on a heart that will be proudly displayed in the Lodge.

(Continued on next page)

Milford Moves for Veterans 5K Fundraiser

St. Patrick's Day Apparel

ELKS 1589
Milford, CT

Scan here with your phone to order now!

or visit this website:
milfordelks.itemorder.com

Order by 2/28/26 to guarantee your order is ready before the parade.
 Free pick up at the lodge starting 3/7/26, or ship directly to your home.

Options in Black or Green
 Youth sizes available too!

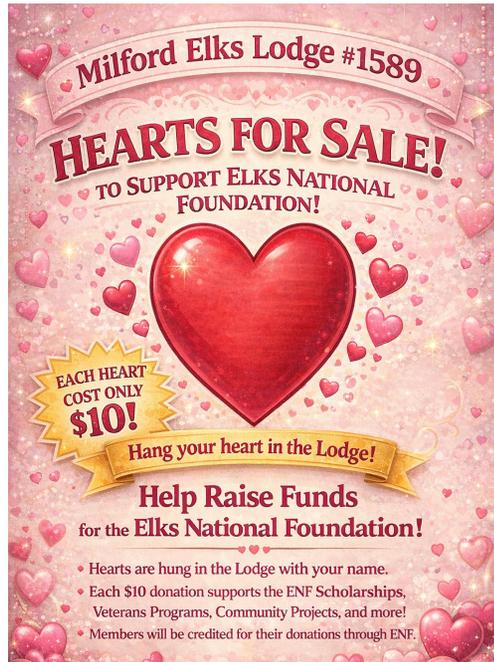
What's Happening

EXALTED RULER MESSAGE (Con't)

All funds go directly to ENF, and you will receive credit for your contribution. I hope you will consider taking part and helping us continue to be the difference.

Thank you all for your continued support, kindness, and involvement. Our Lodge is truly special because of each and every one of you, and I am grateful to be part of such a caring Elk family.

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



- Hearts are hung in the Lodge with your name.
- Each \$10 donation supports the ENF Scholarships, Veterans Programs, Community Projects, and more!
- Members will be credited for their donations through ENF.

Elk of the Month

Gerry Artz

We are proud to recognize Gerry Artz as our Elk of the Month. Known for his motto of “piece of cake,” Gerry approaches every task with a positive attitude, even when the job is more challenging than expected.

Gerry has become our go to person for Lodge repairs and maintenance. He willingly steps in, often asking to be the one we call because he truly wants to be someone we can depend on. From taking on the ongoing battle with the ice machine to handling AC, heat, and many other projects, Gerry is always ready to help.

Thank you, Gerry, for your dedication and continued support of our Lodge. We truly appreciate all that you do.

What's Happening

Can and Bottle Drive

Sunday, February 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.



A message from The Riders:

From charity rides to community support, the Elks Riders have been busy—and our momentum keeps growing. Our membership is strong, and our passion for giving back is even stronger. We're excited to celebrate our upcoming Patch-In Ceremony on Saturday, February 28th at the Lodge. Space is filling up quickly, so be sure to sign up using the following link if you'd like to attend: <http://bit.ly/patchin2026>

Are you a rider? We're always looking for licensed riders who are ready to ride with purpose. Follow our Facebook page for the latest updates and upcoming events. See you on the road!

— Jim Garfield, PER, Riders' President

Activities Committee

Greetings, Fellow Elks!

Well, fellow Elks, the wacky winter weather is proving once again that Old Man Winter is the one member who doesn't RSVP but always shows up uninvited. But fear not because we are bouncing back stronger than your post-New Year's resolutions to hit the gym!

Despite the weather shenanigans, our regular activities continue to bring in the steady faithful, and Friday night live music in the taproom has kicked off the year with fantastic crowds and even better tunes. Speaking of which, February is LOADED with opportunities to get out of hibernation mode! Live Music will grace our taproom EVERY Friday in February, so mark those calendars and don't miss out. And here's the best news for all you lovebirds and last-minute planners! Valentine's Day falls on a Saturday this year! If you're looking for somewhere watch the Superbowl on the 8th (New England vs. Seattle) or somewhere special to celebrate with your sweetheart on Valentines Day, look no further than your friendly neighborhood Elks Lodge. Because nothing says GAMEDAY!! or "I love you" quite like supporting your local fraternal organization, right?

Friday Night Music

February 6 th - John Merola

February 13 th - Ham Alone

February 20 th - Jason Heffernan

February 27 th - Dustina Rose Duo

For those who prefer dancing to romancing, we've got TWO chances to do some boot scootin' this month on the 13th and 20th, so polish those boots and practice your grapevine! The Elks pool tournament is scheduled on the 21st, and even if you're not wielding a cue stick, come on down and show some good old-fashioned Elks support for your fellow members. Nothing builds camaraderie quite like cheering your lodge mates as they attempt to sink the eight ball.

Our February Birthday Celebration on the 22nd will be pulling double duty this month, honoring both January AND February birthdays since that sneaky snowstorm closed us down for the January celebration. See you at the lodge, where the weather might be unpredictable, but the good times are always guaranteed! Cheers!

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

Secretary Notes

Members All,

February is an especially important month for our Lodge. It is the nomination and election of Officers for the 2026 – 2027 Lodge year. It is also when our committees plan for the many events that will be held in the upcoming year. Now is a great time to join a committee and help your Lodge grow and continue to expand all our charitable work for our community. This is a good opportunity to get involved and feel that sense of pride and accomplishment that many of your fellow members have experienced.

Membership Dues notifications for the 2026 – 2027 Lodge year have been mailed out. I urge you to make every effort to remit your payments AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! Your membership dues are necessary to defray the costs required from Grand Lodge and the State Association, as well as funding our outgoing charitable programs.

We still have 16 members who have not paid their dues for the previous year, and unfortunately, they will be dropped from our roles. Once they are dropped, they are considered an "Elk not in Good Standing" and as such are forbidden to use the Lounge or Lodge facilities, nor can they be signed in as a guest. Lapsation is important to keep our membership growing, however it is very costly and time-consuming to chase delinquent members throughout the year. So please keep your dues status current.

Also, if you change your address or contact information, please contact my office to let me know of the changes so our file can be updated.

As always please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

- Applications to be read: 1
- Applications for Life Membership: 1
- Applications for Investigation: 5
- Investigation: February 2, 2026
- Balloting: February 16, 2026
- Candidates awaiting Initiation: 7
- Initiation: Tuesday, February 3, 2025

Dave Field, PDD
Secretary

TO OUR ABSENT MEMBERS

Dolores Tirpak

Tip of the Antlers

Tip of the Antlers – Sarah Muoio

We are happy to recognize Sarah Muoio with a Tip of the Antlers for her dedication and behind the scenes work that makes a meaningful difference for our Lodge. Sarah has taken on the important responsibility of managing our grant applications and the required reporting, ensuring we remain eligible year after year. She stepped right in to handle this task with care, attention to detail, and commitment, helping make many of our Lodge projects possible. Thank you, Sarah, for your time, dedication, and for supporting the continued success of our Lodge.

Tip of the Antlers – Sal Attianese

We are proud to recognize Sal Attianese with a Tip of the Antlers for the many ways he continues to show what being the difference truly means at our Lodge. Sal is always ready to help, whether assisting in the kitchen, running orders, carrying ice downstairs, or stepping in wherever he is needed. He also brings joy to our families as our Easter Bunny for the children's party and helps make birthday celebrations special by ordering the cakes. Thank you, Sal, for your kindness, reliability, and the many ways you support our Lodge.

What's Happening



PER Pierogi Fundraiser

Raising Money for an Awning
for the Taproom Entrance



Fun with Pierogies

Sunday Feb. 15
2-6 PM

Learn how to
make Pierogies
with Joe Mager

\$20

Limit 16 people

Dinner

Ash Wednesday
Feb. 18
6-8:30

Sauteed Pierogies
with Toppings

Until 2/15- \$7 for 6

At the Door- \$10 for 6

Trivia with Joe Mager- 7:30 pm

CANDIDATES

Ryan Moran	Proposed
Carmen Ouellet-Artz	Investigation
Danielle Bourque	Investigation
Frances Gobat	Investigation
Patricia Pacelli	Investigation
Gabriella Salati	Investigation
Steven Coinsedine	Investigation
Fred Baldien	Initiation
Courtney Black	Initiation
Glorena Consedine	Initiation
Nicholas Art	Initiation
Raymond Paskiewicz	Initiation
Alexis Szymecki	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 January 19, 2026. The first topic of the meeting was again the parking lot, with the discussion centering on funding. Next we discussed making sure all bids were finalized before moving any further into the process of funding. The Board hopes to have a good idea of all costs by the next meeting if possible.

Formal notification was received by the City of Milford that the new assessment for the building is \$560,660.00 with the appraised value being \$800,942.00. The assessment coming in a little lower than expected. The ice machine in the tap room has been replaced with a new machine. After a little bit of a rough start, the new machine seems to be working fine for now. Thanks again to Gerry Artz for his constant attention and follow up with the manufacturer.

The Board will be going out for bids on cleaning companies. The company we now use has announced an increase for the 2026 fiscal year. If any member has any knowledge or experience in this matter, please contact me if you know of any person or company that I may contact.

The Board has renewed contacts for 2026 with the following companies: Nick's Carting, for trash; Accounting & Consulting for IRS filing; Bullock Access for Elevator Preventive Maintenance; M&R Mechanical Services for AC Systems & Refrigeration Preventive Maintenance; The cleaning contract was tabled pending review of other companies.

The Board is soliciting bids for refinishing the front entrance steps with a non-slip surface, and the back steps will get some repairs that are required to insure safety for members. Salt remains at both entrances for use when required.

The new boiler certification by the State of Connecticut has been placed on the boiler in the boiler room. I would like to note that the boiler room must be clear of all clutter at all times. The Fire Alarm System & Electrical Panel are housed in this room, and by state code must have 3 feet of free access at all times.

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, February 5th	Thursday Night Supper 6-8 pm (Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables. Mushroom Gravy)
Fri, February 6th	5-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Sat, February 7th	12-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Fri, February 13th	5-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Sat, February 14th	12-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Thu, February 19th	Thursday Night Supper 6-8 pm (Individual Chicken Pot Pie)
Fri, February 20th	5-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Sat, February 21st	12-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Fri, February 27th	5-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu
Sat, February 28th	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. 2026 Started off with a great January at the lodge. Lots of laughter, quality imbibes and yummy food of course. The House Committee truly hopes everyone has enjoyed themselves and everyone's support is greatly appreciated. The lodge rang in 2026 with a potluck Style NYE Party and what a night it was. Lots of fun and camaraderie and I tell you, the food members brought in was really good. Sunday, February 8th we will be airing the Superbowl and would love to see as many familiar faces (and unfamiliar ones too) as we can. Come down and support and hopefully see a great football game. As usual, that day our hours will be Noon to close and everyone is welcome to bring down a favorite dish to share with others potluck style.

We have decided to change Monday's Taproom hours from 5 to 11 pm to 5 to 9 pm now that Monday Night Football is over. Thanks to all who supported the lodge during the football season.

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 February 11th at 6pm.

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

February 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Can & Bottle Drive 10am-2pm Pot Luck Sunday	2	3 Lodge Meeting (Initiation) 7:00pm	4 Game Night 6:30pm	5 Thurs Night Sup- per 6-8pm Salisbury Steak	6 5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Live Music taproom 7-10pm	7 12-8:30 pm Kitchen Menu Karaoke 7:30pm
8 Super Bowl Party 6:30pm	9	10 Activities Committee Meeting 7:00pm	11 House Committee Meeting 6pm Game Night 6:30pm	12	13 5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Country Line Danc- ing Live Music taproom 7-10pm	14 12-8:30pm Kitchen Menu
15 Pot Luck Sunday Pierogis Making 2-6pm	16	17 Lodge Meeting 7:00pm	18 Pierogis Dinner 6-8:30pm Game Night 6:30pm	19 Thurs Night Sup- per 6-8pm Chicken Pot Pies	20 5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Country Line Danc- ing Live Music taproom 7-10pm	21 12-8:30pm Kitchen Menu 8 Ball Pool - Noon Karaoke 7:30pm
22 Pot Luck Sunday Jan/Feb Birthdays 5pm	23	24	25 Game Night 6:30pm	26	27 5-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Live Music taproom 7-10pm	28 12-8:30pm Kitchen Menu Elks Riders Patch-In

SAVE THE DATE - MARCH 20TH - MIXED TAPE BINGO

VOLUNTEER TO ADD MORE EVENTS TO THIS CALENDAR EVERY MONTH

GOT AN IDEA? SHARE IT WITH ANYONE ON PAGE 2