



My Fellow Elks,

As I sit down to write this, my last newsletter as your Exalted Ruler, I want to thank all of you for allowing me the privilege of leading this proud institution. It has been my pleasure to be the face of our wonderful organization for the past year plus. I only hope that I have lived up to the lofty standards of those that came before me.

I'm not going to lie, it wasn't the easiest of terms. Nor was it the kind of term I was expecting. I *sure as hell* did not envision a global pandemic striking and the lodge being closed for my first three months behind the dais. But strike it did and we were *all* forced to deal with—and are still dealing with—unprecedented circumstances and an uncertain future.

However, there is no uncertainty when it comes to the future of the lodge. We've shown we can adapt and overcome whatever's thrown our way. And I am certain we will come out of this situation even stronger than before. Heck, we actually grew our membership during one of the worst years (on so many levels) in recent memory. That's a testament to the kind of organization we've built and, more importantly, to all of you. People are seeking us out. They want to be a part of our lodge.

But if we are to continue this momentum into the future, I'm going to have to ask for a bit more from each of you. **To that end, and as one of my final acts, I am proposing a dues increase of \$12 a year beginning in elk year 2022-2023. This requires a by-laws change and, as a result, it will be put to a vote at the lodge meeting on Tuesday, March 23, 2021.**

As I mentioned earlier, we were closed for the better part of three months and attendance has been down dramatically since reopening. In addition, many of our "tent pole" money-making events such as the golf tournament and Vegas night had to be cancelled. As a result, lodge income is down significantly when compared to years past (i.e., pre-pandemic) and there's no telling if or when it will return to previous levels. This increase is needed if the lodge is to continue to thrive and serve our community in the manner to which we've become accustom.

I realize this is not ideal—and I do not take this increase lightly—but extraordinary circumstances require extraordinary measures. I encourage you to come to the meeting and vote. And, when you do, I hope you will vote in favor of this much needed and equitable increase.

Before I sign off, I would like to offer a special thank you to my cabinet of officers who have stood side-by-side with me throughout this most unusual of years. I know it's meant a lot of unexpected and off-hours time at the lodge, but your commitment did not go unnoticed. Thank you for your dedication to the lodge.

But I have to reserve my biggest thank you for the members of the Board of Trustees—Ben Bell, Vince Pullara, Andy Pusloskie, Bob Cwalina (for first 2/3 of the year), Mark Merrick (for last 1/3 of the year), and Patrick Sullivan. Circumstances dictated that the Exalted Ruler and the Trustees forge a closer-than-normal bond this year, but I honestly consider that a silver-lining to this whole situation. Your guidance and decision-making have been invaluable as we continue to navigate uncharted waters together. I honestly don't think most members have an appreciation for just how much time and effort is required to keep the lodge running. And while the Exalted Ruler is the one that gets most of the credit (or blame) it's really the trustees that do the heavy lifting. Thank you for all the many things that you do.

In closing, let me once again reiterate how proud I am to have been able to serve as your Exalted Ruler this past year. I considered it an honor and I appreciate the support I've received from so many of you.

Here's to a brighter future.

Sincerely,  
Pete Cline

*I would love to hear from you. This is your lodge, I simply have the exceptional privilege of representing us this year. Feel free to contact me directly at clinep33@yahoo.com*

**ARTICLE X: FEES AND DUES: Section 2(b);**

**Currently reads:**

**(b) REGULAR LODGE DUES**

All Lodge dues hereafter specified shall be payable: annually, in advance, on or before April 1st of each year. The regular Lodge dues shall be **\$110.00** per year, which shall **not** include the Grand Lodge per capita fee, the Grand Lodge per capita insurance assessment, and State Association dues.

**Proposed change to read:**

**(b) REGULAR LODGE DUES**

All Lodge dues hereafter specified shall be payable: annually, in advance, on or before April 1st of each year. The regular Lodge dues shall be **\$122.00** per year, which shall **not** include the Grand Lodge per capita fee, the Grand Lodge per capita insurance assessment, and State Association dues.

## LODGE OFFICERS 2020-2021

Exalted Ruler	Pete Cline	410-371-2232
Leading Knight	Ron Zepp	443-829-7561
Loyal Knight	Stacey Peto	602-228-7443
Lecturing Knight	Paul Curry	410-377-0871
Secretary	Kenneth J Kocun, PER	410-296-7787
Treasurer	John Wontrop, PER	410-592-7062
Esquire	Sean Priest	860-951-6579
Tiler	Vince Pullara, Sr.	410-967-0981
Chaplain	Valerie Spangler	410-812-2013
Presiding Justice	John Austin	410-296-0209
Inner Guard	Chris O'Connell	443-465-7987
1 Year Trustee	Ben Bell	410-794-2850
2 Year Trustee	Vince Pullara	410-967-0981
3 Year Trustee	Andy Pusloskie	443-250-6708
4 Year Trustee	Mark Merrick	410-365-9946
5 Year Trustee	Patrick Sullivan, PER	443-286-5798

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

501©3 Charity Fund	James Jenkins, PER	410-404-1488
Accident Prevention	John M. Wontrop, PER	410-592-7062
Activities Chairman	Patrick Sullivan, PER	443-286-5798
Americanism	Paul Curry	410-377-0871
Auditor	Dave Pardoe	410-591-5739
Building Maintenance	Richard Hurd	410-303-4163
Bylaws	Kenneth J Kocun, PER	410-296-7787
Camp Barrett	Colleen Cashill	410-383-6616
Charitable Contributions	John Austin	410-296-0209
Drug Awareness	Jeff Roygom	410-929-4578
ENF	Patrick Sullivan, PER	443-286-5798
Entertainment Co-Chair (Music)	Joe Olmedo	410-960-0842
Entertainment Co-Chair (Music)	Erik Ortel	443-834-3600
Flag Day	Pete Cline	410-371-2232
Fourth of July	Ron Zepp	443-829-7561
Golf/Fundraiser	Bob Cwalina	443-465-4291
Historian	Brian Keelty	410-821-6786
Hoop Shoot	Chris O'Connell	443-465-7987
Indoctrination	Pat Riley	443-465-3916
Inner & Intra Activities	Patrick Sullivan, PER	443-286-5798
Lapsation	Ray Der, PER	410-236-8774
Mediator	Michael Lawlor	410-494-1800
Member Investigations	Nick Giangrosso	410-800-6935
Membership	Pat Riley	443-465-3916
National Foundation	John Wontrop, PER	410-592-7062
Newsletter	Pete Cline	410-371-2232
Public Relations	Pete Cline	410-371-2232
Scholarships	Michael Lawlor	410-494-1800
Youth Activities	Pete Cline	410-371-2232
Vegas Night	Patrick Sullivan, PER	443-286-5798
Veterans Service	Colleen Cashill	410-812-3277
Web & Social Media Coordinator	Sean Priest	860-951-6579

## LIVING PAST EXALTED RULERS

Robert A Ruhl	1968-1969	Gerald D Mastropieri	2003-2004
Lloyd Elliot	1972-1973	James A Jenkins	2004-2005
Robert A Ruhl	1976-1977	Michael S Perry	2006-2007
Philip A Schoenberger	1980-1981	Richard A McAllister Jr	2007-2008
James A Gede Sr	1984-1985	Jay V Strong Jr	2008-2009
James A Gede Sr	1985-1986	Roger J Delp	2009-2010
Thomas J Michels	1986-1986	Joseph F Cox	2010-2011
Ralph E. Patterson	1990-1991	Devin A Foggo	2011-2012
Joseph D Michel	1991-1992	Ronald J Blachowicz	2012-2013
Richard O Taylor	1992-1993	Ray Der	2013-2014
Michael E Ward	1994-1995	John M Wontrop	2014-2015
Thomas A Keller	1994-1995	John J Morton	2016-2017
Christian H Rose	1995-1996	Patrick Sullivan	2017-2018
Dwaine N Garber	2000-2001	Jeff Roygom	2018-2019
Kenneth J Kocun	2002-2003	Joe Lancaster	2019-2020

## LODGE HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY – SATURDAY 12 PM TO MIDNIGHT  
SUNDAY 12 PM TO 8 PM

Lodge Telephone Number: 410.296.4690 Fax: 410.583.5295  
Lodge Address: 4 W. Pennsylvania Ave. Towson, MD 21204



Show off your creative side  
at our  
**Wine Glass Paint Party!**

We'll be guided by Andi, an amazing and energetic artist and instructor, who specializes in painting on glassware to paint our beloved Maryland Blue Crab.

You'll go home with your own work of art that you can not only enjoy looking at, but that also holds your favorite libation!



**Saturday, March 13th @ 3pm \* ONLY \$25!**

**RSVP ASAP by March 10th: Only 25 spots available**

**Sign up at the bar or email Stacey Peto: [staceypeto@yahoo.com](mailto:staceypeto@yahoo.com)**

Social Distancing Rules of the Lodge Remain in Place. Masks Required.



The need is constant.  
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## Towson Elks Blood Drive

Towson Elks Lodge: 4 W Pennsylvania Ave, Towson, MD 21204

**Saturday - 3/20/2021**

**8:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Contact information: Ron Zepp, 443-829-7561, [ron@ronzepp.com](mailto:ron@ronzepp.com)

Appointments can also be scheduled at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
Use Sponsor Code **TOWSONELKS**

## **TOWSON LODGE #469**

### **COVID GUIDELINES:**

- The lodge will open at 12 Noon daily and close during our regular operating hours. We will continue to monitor and change as needed, depending on the State orders. Hours could be revised at any time.
- All members, wishing to come to the lodge, must be CURRENT on dues. If you have not yet paid your 2020-21 dues, you may do so when entering the lodge.
- Face masks must be worn over the nose and mouth when entering the lodge, using the restrooms, or ordering from the bar. Masks may be removed while seated indoors, on the deck or in the basement game room.
- Upon entering the lodge, everyone must wash their hands and/or use the hand sanitizer provided.
- Tables, chairs and high-tops are NOT to be moved. Everything is meticulously set up for social distancing as best we can.
- Spray bottles and towels will be available to wipe down tables and chairs. We are limited with employees and volunteers, so we ask that everyone pitch in and wipe down your area before you are seated and when you're ready to depart.
- Please stand at the appropriate markings to keep a distance when ordering from the bar. Unless seated at the bar, all drinks must be ordered from the designated area by the dining room doorway. NO STANDING AND MINGLING AT THE BAR.
- If you are sick and/or exhibiting symptoms, please stay home for the safety of our lodge. If you appeared to be sick, your temperature will be taken with a hands-free thermometer and will be asked to leave if you have a fever.
- Failure to follow the rules/guidelines as put forth makes for an unsafe and uncomfortable environment for others. The bartenders and officers of the lodge reserve the right to ask you to leave.

## **Congratulations to our 2021 Scholarship Winners!**

### **Males:**

1. Olu Kopano - \$2,000  
St. Paul's School
2. Aquib Mokadderr - \$1,500  
Baltimore Polytechnic High
3. Chirstopher Cao - \$1,000  
New Town High

### **Females:**

1. Oluwadunni Ojumu - \$2,000  
Western School of Tech. & Env.  
Science
2. Drian Hauf - \$1,500  
North Harford High
3. Erika Abumere - \$1,000  
New Town High



## **ELKS GOLF TOURNAMENT 'SAVE THE DATE'**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Elks Golf Tournament Fundraiser will be held on Monday, October 4, 2021 at Pine Ridge.

Lunch/registration will be at noon. The shotgun start will be at 1:00pm. Beverages will be available at lunch and on the course. A full dinner will be served afterward.

The golf tournament—and accompanying 50/50 raffle—is our biggest fundraiser of the year with all proceeds going to the 501(c)(3) charity thus supporting our charitable endeavors.

We need sponsors, players, volunteers, and 50/50 ticket purchasers.

More details will follow in early May.



*Towson Elks Lodge #469*  
 In the heart of Towson  
 since 1899

**Dated Material**

**Please Deliver by Mar. 1st**

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**Towson Elks Lodge #469**  
**Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks**  
**4 West Pennsylvania Avenue**  
**Towson, MD 21204**  
**[www.towsonelks.org](http://www.towsonelks.org)**

## ***SCHEDULE OF EVENTS***

LODGE MEETINGS ARE HELD AT 7PM ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAY OF THE MONTH FROM SEPT. TO JUNE.  
 JULY AND AUGUST MEETINGS ARE THE 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY ONLY

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>
March 13	Saturday	Wine Glass Paint Party	3:00 pm
March 14	Sunday	Daylight Savings Time Begins	All Day
March 17	Wednesday	St. Patrick's Day	All Day
March 20	Saturday	Blood Drive	8:00 am – 1:00 pm
March 27	Saturday	Installation of new officers	2:00 pm
April 1	Thursday	New Elk Year begins	<b>**PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES**</b>
October 4	Monday	Golf Tournament	12:00 noon

All members must sign their guests into the lodge.  
 Exceptions: Spouses and family members under 21