



B.P. O.E.
Sparta Elks Lodge
 #2356
 6 West Shore Trail
 Sparta, NJ 07871
 973-726-0169



March 2026

Elks Care - Elks Share

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OFFICERS

2025-2026

Exalted Ruler.....Keith Walls, ER
 Leading Knight Pedro Calderon
 Loyal KnightAmy Herberg
 Lecturing Knight.....Sheila Wood
 Inner Guard.....Mary Fischer
 Tiler.....Laura Wiecezszak
 Esquire.....Ray Farrell
 Chaplin.....Arthur Murch
 Secretary.....Helga Walls
 Treasurer.....Sandy Andrade

TRUSTEES

1st yr Brian Wiecezszak
 2nd yr Tammy Howell
 3rd yr Alicia Murch



A Message from our Exalted Ruler

By Keith Walls

March is a very exciting month. As you know, this is a transitional time for our lodge. We will be installing our new officers on March 22nd and continuing our traditional and exciting projects throughout 2026–2027.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Exalted Ruler, and I look forward to remaining active within our lodge. I would like to thank all the officers who have served in 2025 and warmly welcome those stepping into new roles. We encourage all members to attend our meetings and learn how you can get involved. There are many opportunities for us to connect and get to know one another throughout 2026. Please feel free to ask about our committees — we have amazing leaders who are eager to bring their enthusiasm to each event.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

2025-2026

Elks Nat'l Foundation.....L Wiecezszak
 House Cmmtt.....Helga Walls
 Special Children Sheila Wood
 VeteransP Calderon & L Meyers
 Americanism.....Alicia Murch
 Antlers..... Lauren Fraser
 Army of Hope..... Brian Wiecezszak
 Drug Awareness.....Sandy & Liz
 Hoop Shoot..... Nick Podell
 Scholarship... Mary, Patrice & Lauren
 Auditing & Acctg.....L Wiecezszak
 Buildings & Grounds.....Sheila Wood
 Convention & Parade.....L Wiecezszak
 Gov't Relations.....Helga Walls
 Hospitality.....Mike & Ray
 Lodge Ceremonies..... Jack & Erika
 Newsletter.....Mary Fischer

I invite you to become familiar with our newsletter. It is filled with information about committees and lodge events that offer opportunities for you to participate. We are always delighted to see our lodge filled with members, along with their family and friends. Our goal is to make your lodge a place where you are proud to spend your time. One of my proudest accomplishments during my tenure as Exalted Ruler has been welcoming new members throughout my term. Many thanks to my wife, Helga, who kept us organized and on track.

Good luck to our new officers — may you continue building on the positive progress we have achieved together, and most importantly, find meaningful ways to give back to your community.

As always, I wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you at our meetings and events.

Best regards,

Keith
 Exalted Ruler



MONTHLY LODGE NEWS

The Antler's Are Making a Comeback!

Submitted by Lauren Fraser

The newest program in Elkdom is an old one! Yes, it is the Junior Elks Program called "the Antlers." It is a chance for young people in our communities to get involved with the Elks in the many service-related projects our Lodges sponsor. As the chair of the Antlers, I'm working with Lisa Rovito and Tom Boyce to reinstate our Antler's charter. I will continue to organize this program for our lodge. Happily, there are many interested parents and I already have a list of potential applicants. We hope to be accepting applications this spring and summer.

The Antlers program focuses on exposing kids between the ages of 12 and 20, to ideas of patriotism, good Citizenship, community service and philanthropy. The group will work together on a community service project they have decided upon. In addition, they will have plenty of time to socialize, make new friends and participate in events, and local trips, while also unlocking their leadership potential.

On Sunday, March 22 at 10am we're having a meet and greet for kids & parents to learn more about this leadership program.

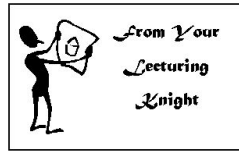
Sparta Elks to Support Sussex County Food Pantry with Beacon Grant

Submitted by Laura Wiecezszak

The Sparta Elks are putting the motto "Elks Care—Elks Share" into action. Leveraging a significant **Beacon Grant** from the Elks National Foundation (ENF), our Lodge is launching a focused food drive to restock the Sussex County Social Services Food Pantry in Newton.

This initiative comes at a critical time. Local officials recently reported that the Sussex County Food Pantry is facing a major funding gap following the loss of a long-term "angel donor" who previously provided over \$500,000 in food annually. By working together, we can ensure that no family in Sussex County goes hungry this season. Through the efforts of our Elks Lodge 2356 we make sure every dollar of this grant is used to make a direct impact right here in Newton.

On a personal note, it's a privilege to be an Elk and I'm proud to be actively involved in several areas of our lodge. My husband Brian & I support the many programs and events that make our Elks community so special. We help coordinate seasonal celebrations and special events, working alongside fellow members to organize meals, logistics, and volunteer efforts to ensure everything runs smoothly. I'm involved with our grant programs and financial oversight, monitoring funds, closing out grants, and making sure we responsibly use the resources entrusted to us. In addition, I support initiatives such as Army of Hope, membership matters, and public relations when needed. I truly enjoy being part of a team that works together for the good of our Lodge and our community, and I look forward to continuing to serve wherever I can make a positive impact.



March is the Elks Polar Plunge

Submitted By: Sheila Wood

Our Elks lodge is getting ready for the long standing traditional Polar Bear Plunge Day, this year held Sunday, March 8, 2026



Registration is at 11:00am, with the plunge 12pm. The location is Lake Mohawk Beach One. The QR code has the all the information you need. Email or text Shelia Wood if you have any questions.

~ Volunteers needed ~

~ Chili served afterwards for everyone ~

We also have fun items we'd like to make happen in July:
- Would like to have a dunk tank for July 4th weekend



We are planning a duck race in the dunk tank & have cash prizes. These ducks are reusable for future fundraisers.

three

See the flyer & more details on page 7 of newsletter



MONTHLY LODGE NEWS



Special Children’s Committee & Special Olympics

Submitted by Sheila Wood & Terry Brylawski

There are many upcoming Special Children’s initiatives. As previously mentioned, our Polar Plunge will take place on Sunday, March 8th. All funds raised will support Special Children’s, Veterans, and local charities within our community. The Lodge will also participate in the Special Children’s Breakfast in April, with each New Jersey Elks Lodge assigned specific food items to contribute. In addition, our Lodge plans to take part in a larger Special Children’s raffle effort, which raises funds through gift card drawings. We will also host the Dunk the Duck fundraiser to support our Lodge charities.

Cheers and many thanks!

Sheila

My name is Terry Brylawski of the Special Adults Committee, a subcommittee of the Special Children’s Committee. We focus on creating meaningful, inclusive, and enjoyable experiences for young adults with special needs. This project was developed to address an unmet need in our local community—providing young adults with special needs a place to socialize and connect.

Since its inception in the Fall of 2025, the feedback from both parents and participants has been overwhelmingly positive.

We’ve had wonderful turnouts at recent events, including themed nights, game nights, and social gatherings that bring together participants, families, and community volunteers. It has been especially rewarding to see the enthusiasm and support from volunteers who want to get involved and make a difference.

One personal highlight this past winter was celebrating my son Jamie’s success in the Special Olympics. He earned both a silver and a gold medal in skiing events and even received a letter of recognition from Congressman Thomas Kean Jr. for his achievements.

I am also working on recognizing our participants’ birthdays and finding small ways to ensure each person feels celebrated and valued. Watching friendships grow and seeing the joy these events bring truly makes this work so special to me.

We meet every Thursday evenings in the Boardwalk Room from 6:30 pm - 8:30pm. Please note these are not fundraising events, this is purely a charitable service our lodge is providing to the young adults in our community.



ELKS

Reminder to Renew

Pay your dues today!
Contact your Lodge Secretary



**ELKS LODGE
MEMBERSHIP
PAYMENT
DUE!!**

Community • Friendship • Charity
elks.org



Sparta Elks
@Sparta-Elks



venmo



Members Lounge Hours: Thursdays 6pm - 10pm

Member/Guest Bar Prices

Bottled Water \$1.00
 Soda \$1.00
 Wine \$4.00
 Mixed Drinks: \$4.00
 Shot: \$3.00 SG \$5.00 DBL
 Beer:

Draft: \$3.00
 Bottles: \$4.00 Bud/Coors/Yueng/Rolling Rock
 \$5.00 Import and Craft

Lodge #2356
 House Committee
 2025-2026
**Boardwalk Room
 Rentals**
 Chairperson: Helga
 Walls



MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; transform: rotate(-5deg); display: inline-block;"> Volunteer for Polar Plunge, St Patty's Day or Bunny Breakfast We always want to see your smiling face! </div>		3	4	5 6pm Members Lounge Open* 6:30 - 8:30pm SCC Board Game Night in Boardwalk Rm	6	7
8 Polar Plunge @ 11 a.m.	9	10	11 Elks Mtg @7:30pm Initiation of New Members	12 6pm Members Lounge Open* 6:30 - 8:30pm SCC Board Game Night in Boardwalk Rm	13 St.Patty's Day Dinner @ 7pm RSVP 3/11 	14
15	16	17	18	19 6pm Members Lounge Open* 6:30 - 8:30pm SCC Board Game Night in Boardwalk Rm	20	21
22 Elks Antlers Youth Leadership @10 am Officer Initiation 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	23	24	25 Elks Mtg @ 7:30	26 6pm Members Lounge Open* 6:30 - 8:30pm SCC Board Game Night in Boardwalk Rm	27 Line Dancing with Kristen Doors open 6 pm	28
29 Bunny Breakfast 2 Seatings	30	31	<div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> * Members Lounge open upon Staffing Availability </div>			

Noteworthy in April: **Membership Dues April 1, 2026**
 Coming in May: **Camp Moore Visit see flyer page 7**
 Coming in June: **State Convention @ Wildwood, agenda page 7**
 Coming in July: **Duck for Dunk, see flyer page 7**

Sparta Elks
PRESENTS

Board Game Night

Every Thursday for 18+ Adults with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities

Donations Welcome

6 WEST SHORE TRAIL SPARTA, NJ

All donations go to Elks Special Children's and Adult Charities

WWW.SPARTAEKLS.ORG

FREE- WALK-INS WELCOME
6:30 PM TO 8:30



SPARTA ELKS LODGE 2356 INVITES YOU TO LEARN ABOUT OUR YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION FOR AGES 12-20

March 22, 2026
10 am



Sparta Elks Lodge
6 W. Shore Trail,
Sparta

For more information and to RSVP, please contact
SpartaElksLodge2356@gmail.com



Sparta Elks Charity Polar Plunge
Sunday, March 8, 2026

Sparta Elks Lodge
6 West Shore Trail, Sparta NJ

Check in/Registration- 11 am at the Sparta Elks in the Boardwalk Room
All polar plungers must be registered by 11:45
Charity Plunge at 12 Noon @ Lake Mohawk

Free Hot Cocoa, Chili and Hot Dogs After the Plunge

Charity Plunger Sponsorship \$50 (minimum pledge)
Receive 1 Free T-Shirt with \$75 pledge by 2/15

Business Sponsorship \$100 (minimum donation)
Receive 1 Free T-Shirt & Name/Logo on back of shirt

SpartaElksLodge2356@gmail.com
973-726-0169



All proceeds benefit Special Children's Committee and Charities

CELEBRATE
ST. PATRICK'S DAY

MARCH 13

7 pm

DRINKS - FOOD - MUSIC - CASH

\$20 PP. RSVP BY 3/11/26

SPARTAEKLSLODGE2356@GMAIL.COM

OR BY VENMO: @SPARTA-ELKS



All Proceeds to Benefit the Elks Made with PosterMyWall.com

Line Dancing @ Sparta Elks

Friday 3-27-2026

7:30pm - 9:30pm
6 West Shore Trail
Sparta, NJ



\$10 Cover
Outside food is allowed

Boots and Bling
Line Dancing with Kristin

You're Invited

You're invited to come to Sparta Elks Lodge for the Installation of
2026 -27 Officers
Sunday, March 22, 2026
Cocktail Hour - 1:00 p.m.
Ceremony - 2:00 p.m.
Dinner - 3:00 p.m.

Come wish our new officers a successful and prosperous term!

EASTER
BUNNY Breakfast

Sunday March 29
Buffet Style
2 Seatings 9am - 11am
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SPARTA ELKS LODGE
VENMO
Sparta Elks
@Sparta-Elks

Sparta Elks Lodge #2356 NJ

State Elks Convention June 5th-7th, 2026



FRIDAY - The weekend starts on Friday, June 5th, with a Welcoming Cocktail and Pizza Party, beginning at 6:00 pm. Then dance the night away to DJ entertainment while enjoying your favorite beverages from the hospitality room!



SATURDAY - On Saturday we start the day with breakfast served by the Tangier's Café.

PARADE time to be announced, all members and Antlers are encouraged to march. Proper uniforms are required.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES times to be announced: Face painting, sandcastle building, pool activities.

ANNUAL PIG ROAST & BBQ, Saturday evening around 6:00 pm, pool side.



SATURDAY NIGHT'S THEME - "Tropical Island" so wear your favorite tropical outfit for a night of Island Relaxation" We will be dancing the night away to DJ music and enjoying our favorite beverages from the hospitality room.



SUNDAY - On Sunday morning we will say farewell with a continental breakfast served by Tangier's Café. Please keep in mind we are guests of the Tangiers. Please respect their property as you would your own and clean up after yourselves. Please remember to tip the cleaning staff at the Tangiers.

**NEVER BEEN TO
ELKS
CAMP MOORE?**

Now's Your Chance!
Saturday, May 9, 2026 - 12pm - 3pm

Who Should Attend?

- Members who have never been
- Families still deciding
- Educators ready to help connect Special Children with the PREMIER Special Children's Camp in NJ!

COME LEARN ABOUT OUR STATE MAJOR PROJECT!
WE WILL HAVE TOURS, BBQ WITH FRIENDS AND AN UNFORGETTABLE DAY OF FUN!

There is no charge for this event.

RSVP by April 25 to State SCC Chair Elise Russo at 732-644-6273 or erussoscc66@gmail.com

5 Susquehanna Ave. Haskell, NJ 07420

**SPARTA ELKS PRESENTS
DUNK THE DUCK**
July 4th, 2026

Pick a Duck - Watch It Dunk - Win Cash!

Cost: \$5 per duck

Prizes:
1st Place - Cash Prize
2nd Place - Cash Prize
3rd Place - Cash Prize

Drawing: 3:00 PM
You do NOT need to be present to win

Venmo Accepted: @Sparta-Elks
Please include Name & Phone Number in Venmo notes

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Scan to Pay with Venmo

Family-Friendly • Proceeds Support Sparta Elks Charities



