



ELKLINER

MAY 2023 | Madison Elks Lodge 410

OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler **Bridget Esser**
Leading Knight **Zack Henderson**
Loyal Knight **Mike Verveer**
Lecturing Knight **Scott McDonell**
Secretary **Dan Curd**
Interim Treasurer **Lynn Aspinwall**
Esquire **Patrick Fitzpatrick**
Chaplain **Laura MacIsaac**
Tiler **Christopher Klinge**
Inner Guard **Geoff Gaston**
Organist **Lois Hoornstra**

TRUSTEES

1 Year **Aaron Frank**
2 Year **Tom Lyons**
3 Year **Michelle Braithwaite**
4 Year **Kristopher Steege-Reimann**
5 Year **Don Geier**

Membership meetings held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and also the 4th Wednesday in February, March, and April.

ELKLINER

Editor **Dan Curd**
Photographer **John Lorimer**

If you would like to submit something for publication or place an advertisement, please email:

secretary@madisonelkslodge.org

SPRING FORWARD

Spring is a season of change – a time of rebirth and renewal as the weather gets warmer and things start to grow. Our days are getting longer, flowers are blooming and warmer weather lets us spend time outdoors. It's also a time for spring cleaning. Our newly reconstituted Building and Grounds Committee is busy sprucing up the Lodge inside and out. (They will fill you in as to what they are up to in an article that follows.) Along with other volunteers on April 29, they oversaw a clean-up of the grounds. Very soon the Ladies Auxiliary will beautify the lawn and entrance with plants and flowers. The Auxiliary can always use extra hands to help with watering and weeding all summer long. The piers are in and we want to thank all those who donate their time and effort to keep them shipshape. We all enjoy coming to the Lodge when it looks its best, but this cannot happen unless we all pitch in and do our part.

MOVING FORWARD

As many of you know, a few months ago both of our boilers used to heat the building failed. It necessitated closing for several days. We got one of the boilers up and working, but it has now failed again. We will have to purchase and install new equipment before fall. Faced with a \$100,000+ expenditure for a new, energy efficient system was a wake-up call. If we want our beautiful but 58-year-old Lodge on the Lake to remain a viable clubhouse we need to take action now. The list of much needed repairs is long, not to mention improvements we would like to see to make the facility more enjoyable for all of us.

The Board of Directors has elected to initiate a Capital Campaign. You will be hearing more about this soon. The bottom line is a goal to raise \$500,000 over five years to repair and improve our Lodge. Initially, we need money for new boilers and have set an immediate goal of raising \$25,000 during the month of May. If successful, an anonymous donor has agreed to match this amount.

Let's be honest. Over the past 20 years, many Elks Lodges have faced declining memberships and some subsequently forced to sell their property. Others – most recently the Beloit Lodge – have ceased to exist altogether. Fortunately, that is not a problem we currently face. We had a net gain of 45 members this past year. Yet, we need to attract additional members as well as retain our current members. Simply put, more members equal more revenue. The best way to achieve this goal is to have an appealing, well-functioning facility and positive presence in the community. The Board is committed to that and we hope you are as well.

We would ask that all members consider what they are able to invest, whether it be money, labor or both, to secure our Lodge's future.



BUILDING & GROUNDS

By Jim Schuessler

Elks 410 Building and Grounds Committee wishes to recognize Lodge member Kurt Arvold, owner of Crystal Cleaners, Inc., for generously donating his services to clean our Lodge's carpeting on March 20. All the carpeting upstairs and down were professionally cleaned thanks to Kurt at no expense to the Lodge. Thanks also are due to all the volunteers who helped move furniture during the cleaning process. We also wish to recognize lodge member Jon Jenson for generously digitizing images of our Lodge's original building plans.

The Building and Grounds Committee is addressing issues big and small inside and out at our Lodge. We are obtaining quotes for new boilers to heat our building and evaluating other mechanicals in need of repair, maintenance or upgrading. We also will be sprucing up the building's interior, and maintaining the parking lot, lawn and grounds. Our goal is to make our Lodge a more attractive and comfortable space for us all to enjoy while reducing operational costs with the help of volunteers.

Our newly formed Building and Grounds Committee had its first meeting on March 16 with 12 members in attendance and a second meeting with 13 members in attendance. A total of 27 lodge members have

expressed interest in serving

on the Building and Grounds

Committee. If you are

interested in participating or

just want to learn more,

contact Committee Chair and

Trustee Kristopher Steege-

Reimann,

jksrproperties@gmail.com.

Please consider attending a

meeting to see if you'd like to

get involved – we'd love to have

your help!



Easter Brunch was a big hit with the adults and kids alike.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

As is our tradition, we will celebrate the "Run for the Roses" with a **Derby Day Party** at the Lodge on Saturday, May 6. The bar will be open 4-10 p.m. – post time is 5:45 p.m. We will not serve our regular menu but have a special buffet from 5-8 p.m. with brats, mini sandwiches, wings, meatballs, cheese and sausage trays, and much more. The advance prices with Sign-Up Genius is \$14 (plus tax and tip) or \$20 at the door. There will be a prize for the best hat and a 50-50 raffle.

For **Mother's Day** on Sunday, May 14, we will feature a buffet brunch between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Advance reservations are required via Sign-Up Genius (the link emailed to you). If you don't have internet access there is an iPad at the bar you can use (or call Michelle Braithwaite at 608-212-7722). The full menu appears on Page 6. Prices are \$32 for adults (\$40 at the door), children 6 to 10 \$15 (\$20 at the door) and children under 6 are free. (Prices do not include tax or gratuity.) There will be activities for the kids in the Wisconsin Room as well.

Live at the Lodge, our outdoor summer concert series, returns in June (the complete schedule follows). There will be four **Euchre** tournaments this month (see the calendar on Page 7) and **Music Bingo** on May 17 (the 3rd Wednesday of the month). The piers are in so boaters are welcome (please use the outside staircase that leads to the bar). We are also pleased to once again sponsor the Marquette Neighborhood Association's **Waterfront Festival**, June 10-11, and **Orton Park Festival**, August 25-27.

P.E.R. ASSOCIATION

Chairman **Richard Olson** (2015-2017)

Secretary **Sherie Sasso** (2019-2020)

Treasurer **Lynn Aspinwall** (2017-2019)

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Kevin Pohlkamp (1989-1990)

Jim Mueller (1990-1991)

Ed Ledwidge (1994-1996)

Chuck Hoornstra (1995-1996, 2001-2002)

Kristi Barbian (2011-2013)

Steve Sasso (2013-2015)

LADIES AUXILIARY

President **LaVerne Schwengel**

Past President **Gloria Simley**

Vice President **Donna Campanelli**

Secretary **Jeanette May**

Treasurer **Helen Duncan**

BOARD MEMBERS

Ann Bailey

Carol Rohde



Hosted by:

DJ John Sherman

Every 3rd
Wednesday from
6pm - 8pm



Based on 30 players,
minimum payout \$10.00

	Payout
Game 1	\$ 50.00
Game 2	\$ 50.00
Game 3	\$ 50.00
Game 4	\$ 75.00
Game 5	\$ 100.00
50/50 Drawing	
Game 6	\$ 125.00

6 game packets \$24.00
Single sheets for games 3-6 \$5 each

50/50 Raffle Tickets
\$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00



Taco Night

EVERY
WEDNESDAY

TACOS * QUESADILLAS
FAJITAS * NACHOS
TACO SALAD

3 SOFT OR HARD TACOS SERVED WITH MEXICAN RICE
AND REFRIED BEANS...\$13.00
TACO SALAD SERVED WITH SOUR CREAM AND SALSA...\$13.00
CHICKEN OR STEAK QUESADILLAS SERVED WITH SOUR CREAM
AND SALSA...\$13.00
CHICKEN OR STEAK FAJITAS...\$14.00
CHICKEN OR BEEF NACHOS...\$13.00
SHRIMP NACHOS...\$14.00
VEGGIE NACHOS...\$11.00

Live! at the Lodge

Every Thursday • 5:30-8:30 pm

Cookout food available for purchase 5-7:30
50/50 raffle — Drawing at 7:00 • Bring a lawn chair!

Event will move inside in the case of rain.

Lineup

June 1	Jackie Marie
June 8	Back to Back
June 15	Shekinah
June 22	Marcy & The Highlights Trio
June 29	Char and Donnie B
July 6	Jackie Marie
July 13	Marcy & The Highlights Trio
July 20	Back 40
July 27	Bad Habit
August 3	Rusty Bumper
August 10	Shekinah
August 17	Marcy & The Highlights Trio
August 24	Jackie Marie
August 31	Back 40

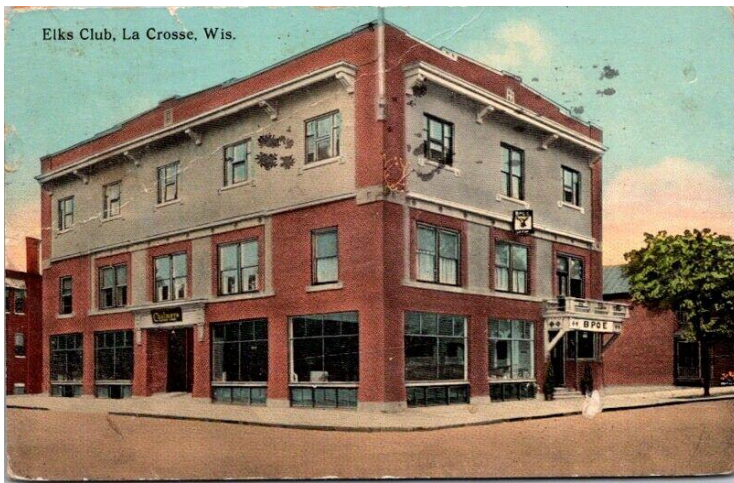
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IMPORTANT NOTICE:

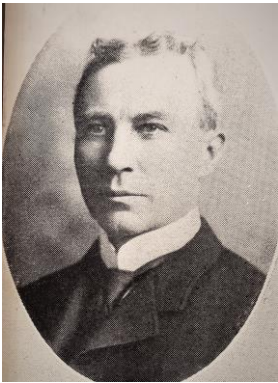
The 2023-2024 Annual Budget will be ratified by the members at the May 10 Membership Meeting

POSTCARD FROM THE PAST



La Crosse Elks Lodge 300 was chartered on April 4, 1895, and first met at Gund's Hall at the corner of 4th and Jay Streets. In 1904 the clubhouse moved to the Linker Building at 4th and Main Streets, and three years later to the old La Crosse Theatre on 5th Avenue South. The property pictured, located at 5th and State Streets, was leased in 1912 and eventually purchased in 1921. In 1958 the lodge interior was extensively remodeled with further renovations made during the 1960s. By 1991 the membership had declined to 360 and the Lodge was forced to sell its clubhouse. It continued to hold regular meeting at a couple of different restaurants, but surrendered its charter in 2000.

WILLIAM A. DIVINE



1863-1952

Exalted Ruler

1908-1910

William A. "Billy" Divine was born in Wisconsin on Christmas Day, the son of John Devine and Anna Cass, both of whom were born in Ireland. Not completing his grade school education at St. Raphael's, he chose instead to further his education on what he called "the field of hard knocks." At age 14 he took his first job as a printer's devil with the *Madison Democrat*. He went on to work for the Northwestern and Milwaukee Road railroads. At age 26 he began a career at the Madison Post Office that would last for 47 years. He quickly rose from the ranks to ultimately become its leader. In 1910 President William Howard Taft appointed him postmaster.

Billy was active in business and civic affairs all his life. He was Chairman of the Board of the Anchor Savings & Loan which he helped organize, President of the Madison Bus Company, and Vice President of the Union Trust Company. Devine was an avid bowler and participated in many city and state tournaments. He was a member of the Rotary Club and a charter member of the local chapter of the Knights of Columbus. His real passion, however, was Madison Elks Lodge 410 where he was a member for 51 years, rarely missing any social event. William A. Devine served as our Exalted Ruler between 1908 and 1910.

Devine married Martha Genevieve Dowling in 1894 and they parented four daughters. His wife died in 1929 and William died on April 30, 1952. They are buried in Madison's Resurrection Cemetery.



William A. Divine with Milton Findorff (Left) and Joseph Schaefer (Right) at his portrait unveiling at the State Historical Society.

CHANGES COMING TO ELKS MENU

By Lecturing Knight Scott McDonell

Since the COVID epidemic, business at the Elks Lodge has slowed causing revenue to drop precipitously to an unsustainable level. Over the last few months, efforts have been under way to improve all aspects of the restaurant in order to create a better dining experience and attract more customers. Some examples are:

- Recruiting volunteers to fill important unstaffed positions in the bar, at the host stand, and in the kitchen. Hiring in the current environment has been challenging.
- Looking at how things are done in the kitchen and dining room to speed up the delivery of food to your table. We know that wait times have been too long at times in the past. Hopefully, you have noticed an overall improvement.
- Starting to create a restaurant ambiance. We have begun to change the look and feel of the dining room and will continue to do so during the weeks ahead.
- Standardize and improve training of staff and expectations. This is also a work in progress but is moving along.
- Updating the bar menu to include cocktails and a new wine list.
- Updating and improving the menu. This will be the most noticeable change in the coming weeks.

The menu changes will focus on a few concepts. First, menu items that have not sold well over the past year will be retired. Those have tended toward what I would call purchased, readymade bar food. (Think jalapeno poppers and frozen pizza.)

The second concept will be to add classic supper club selections made fresh daily. New pork, chicken, and vegetarian entrees will be added. Current items like cheese curds and french fries will be upgraded. Friday Fish Fry will remain as is. Two-for-One Burgers on Thursday night has been discontinued.

Third is pricing. Most prices have not been adjusted to reflect the inflation of food costs over the past couple of years. There will be new prices on the menu so be sure to take note.

We started implementing these changes on Friday, April 21. We introduced a new fish special that will be on the new menu. It is a walleye prepared with lemon, caper and dill. It was so popular that it sold out and accounted for a third of the sales that night. Expect more new dishes in the days ahead. Ultimately, there will be many new choices to try every night of the week. We will start to introduce these items over the weeks to come in order to allow the kitchen time to get used to making them. We want to avoid any new dishes slowing down service in the dining room.

I hope you share my excitement about a new menu and improved restaurant management. The Elks Board and all the staff have stepped up to make these change happen. I appreciate chefs Zack and Rotillio and bar manager Nicole for their willingness to make these improvements. I especially want to thank Elks 410 member Henry Doane. I used to work for Henry as a cook decades ago at the old Blue Marlin on the Square. Henry has done a lot of the work on the menu and will be helping to train the restaurant staff.

Please consider coming in for more than just Friday Fish Fry. Thank you for all your kind words over the last few months. I look forward to seeing you at the Lodge!



Party at the Lodge!

BAR OPENS 4:00 P.M.

POST TIME 5:45 P.M.

TAILGATE BUFFET 5 – 8 P.M.

**BRATS, MINI SANDWICHES, LOTS OF APPS
& PEACH COBBLER**

(OUR REGULAR MENU WILL NOT BE SERVED)

50-50 RAFFLE

PRIZE FOR BEST HAT

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Claim your free birthday drink at the bar during your birthday week.

- 1 Mark Geiger, Nancy Turman
- 2 Ronald Seely, J.R. Sims, Richard Steinmann,
John Topper
- 3 Christopher Dodge, Richard Lofgren, Bud Palac
- 4 John Cuccia, Michael Lizon, John Lorimer,
David Mahoney, Daniel Piorier
- 5 Kurt Arvold
- 6 Mike Euch
- 7 Justin Boid, Richard Fetherston, Robert Popp
- 8 Becky Anderson, Ryan Mueller
- 9 William Heiser, Jeff Madson, Kerry McAllen
- 10 Traci Schroeckenthaler
- 11 Tom Koch
- 12 Douglas Bailey, Mary Lavine, Steve Silberberg,
Margaret Urban, Bruce Zauft
- 13 Larry Chambers
- 15 Thomas Freitag, Bernard McCarthy
- 17 John Borchert, John Schmitt
- 18 Laura Claire Meffert

- 19 Darrell Braun, Michael Verveer, David Zweifel
- 20 David Gillette
- 21 Tamim Sifri, Elizabeth Zimdars
- 23 Lynn Aspinwall, William Pharo
- 24 Shiva Borseth
- 25 Pattie Meixelsperger
- 27 Richard McCutcheon
- 28 Patrick Arthurs
- 29 Paul Van Amerongen
- 31 Stella Patten

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Kathleen Griffiths
Colleen Hayes
William Herman
Sean Jindrich
John David Kellerhuis
Katie McGlenn
Amy Perry
Theresa Pope
Mary Louise Roberts

PREPAID
RESERVATIONS ON
SIGN-UP GENIUS:
Adults \$32
Children 6-10 \$15
Under 6 Free
*PLUS TAX & TIP



Sunday, May 14
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
BAR OPENS AT 9 A.M.

• MENU •

Bloody Mary Bar
Bottomless Mimosa
Vegetable Crudité
Salmon & Lox
French Toast
Quiche/Frittata
Sausage & Bacon
Beef Tenderloin

Savory Baked Chicken
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Hash Brown Casserole
Fresh Asparagus
Fruit Kebabs
Dessert Bar
Coffee, Juice & Milk

MAY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
		1	2	3	4	5	6
					WEA Convention <i>begins, Appleton</i>	Derby Day <i>Bar & Dining Room, 4:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.</i>	
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
WEA Convention <i>ends, Appleton</i>			Lodge Meeting, <i>Lower Level, 7 p.m. / Euchre, Wis. Rm., 6 p.m.</i>		Lois at the Piano, <i>Dining Room</i>	Euchre, <i>3:15 p.m.</i>	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Mother's Day <i>Brunch, Dining Room, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.</i>			Music Bingo, <i>Bar, 6 - 8 p.m.</i>				
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			Euchre, <i>Wis. Rm., 6 p.m.</i>			Lois at the Piano, <i>Dining Room</i>	
	28	29	30	31			
	Memorial Day		Euchre, <i>Wis. Rm., 6 p.m.</i>				





SEE YOU AT THE LODGE

The office is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., or by appointment. Email: office@madisonelkslodge.org. The bar is open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 4:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. The Dining Room is open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. For reservations or carryout, please call 608-255-1644 ext. 1.

MADISON ELKS LODGE 410

711 Jenifer Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

madisonelkslodge.org