



ELKLINER

FEBRUARY 2026 | Madison Elks Lodge 410



OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler **Sherie Sasso**
Leading Knight **Phil Doll**
Loyal Knight **Mike Verveer**
Lecturing Knight **John Skillrud**
Secretary **Dan Curd**
Treasurer **Renée Lauber**
Esquire **Patrick Fitzpatrick**
Chaplain **Laura MacIsaac**
Tiler **Chauncey Hunker**
Inner Guard **Geoff Gaston**
Organist **Lois Hoornstra**

TRUSTEES

1 Year **Lindsey Lee**
2 Year **Kristopher Steege-Reimann**
3 Year **Don Geier**
4 Year **Jim Schuessler**
5 Year **Tya Lichtie**

*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

A MESSAGE FROM THE ER

Here we are, deep in the dead of winter. I know it's hard to motivate ourselves to leave our warm, comfortable homes and go out into the weather, but it's good to get out among our Elks friends for Sunday brunch, trivia, Name That Tune (formerly Music Bingo – it's a long story), and all the other events our Entertainment Committee and Music Subcommittee have in store for us. Please read the Committee's message elsewhere in this Elkliner to get the scoop, including information about some exciting new events they're lining up!

In addition to the many "regular" events, Hirt Alpert is coming back to the Lodge, and we will be having a St. Patrick's Day Party on March 17.

Our biggest fundraiser of the year, the Spaghetti Dinner, is set for March 21. I know that sounds a long way off, but trust me, it will be here before we know it. This event is run completely by volunteers. We sell tickets, seat diners, take orders, deliver food, bus tables, fill coffee cups and water glasses, prepare bread and salads, and wash dishes. So please keep the date open so you can sign up for your favorite shift and task.

Oh, and a huge part of the fundraiser is the raffle. You should have received ten tickets by now. Please try to sell them or purchase them yourself. Additional tickets are available at the bar and in the office.

You also should receive your dues notice for the 2026-2027 Elks fiscal year shortly. PLEASE renew promptly. It really helps the office, and you will have that off your plate, so you don't have to worry about it!

We love it when our members bring in guests to show off our incredible Lodge. However, Grand Lodge has a rule that you may bring in a guest only three times before they must become a member themselves. The reasoning is that after three visits, they should know whether they want to join.

So, make the most of winter and remember, every day above freezing is one more day closer to spring!

In Elkdom,
Sherie Sasso



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Dues. It's time to renew! Your current membership will expire on March 31, 2026. Once you receive your dues statement, please submit your dues for next year: \$253 for Regular Members, \$148 for Life Members. This is a \$1 increase (for your national dues) over last year. You may pay your dues by mailing us a check or using your credit or debit card online at <https://elks.org/payonline>. You may pay for your dues with cash in the office, Wednesday – Friday between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Please do not try to pay your dues in the bar or restaurant. If you have any questions, contact the secretary at secretary@madisonelkslodge.org or (608) 255-1644.

Upon receipt of payment, your membership and key cards will be mailed to you. Please allow 14 days for handling and mailing. Next month, widows and widowers of deceased members will automatically receive identification cards in the mail.

Please continue to use your current purple key cards and 2025-2026 membership cards until April 1 when the new fiscal year begins and the locks on the doors will be changed.

Election of Officers for 2026-2027. The following members were nominated at the January 14 membership meeting:

- *Exalter Ruler:* Sherie Saso
- *Leading Knight:* Phil Doll (declined nomination)
- *Loyal Knight:* Mike Verveer
- *Lecturing Knight:* John Skillrud
- *Secretary:* Dan Curd
- *Treasurer:* Renée Lauber
- *5-Year Trustee:* Lindsey Lee
- *4-Year Trustee:* Judith Trampf



Nominations may be made for any office at the February 11 membership meeting with the election held at the February 25 membership meeting. Newly elected officers' term of office will be installed at the March 25 meeting, and their term of office will be effective April 1. The newly elected Exalted Ruler shall then appoint the Esquire, Tiler, Inner Guard, Chaplain, and Organist as well as the members of all committees. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact the Exalted Ruler.

Keep in Touch. The means we most frequently use to communicate with members is via email using the platform Constant Contact and SignUpGenius. If you are not receiving these emails (1) check your spam folder, (2) make sure you have not unsubscribed, (3) make sure we have your correct email address. Otherwise, please contact the secretary, secretary@madisonelkslodge.org.

We also communicate via our Facebook page, [Elks Lodge 410](#), so please be sure to follow us. Finally, we encourage you to [register](#) on elks.org. This will not only allow you to view the latest news from the Grand Lodge, but access information about ENF, download copies of the statutes and bylaws, read minutes of the membership meetings, pay your dues, and check out the facilities offered by every Elks Lodge in the county. Finally, our own [webpage](#) has a wealth of information about the Madison Lodge, including current events and a monthly calendar.

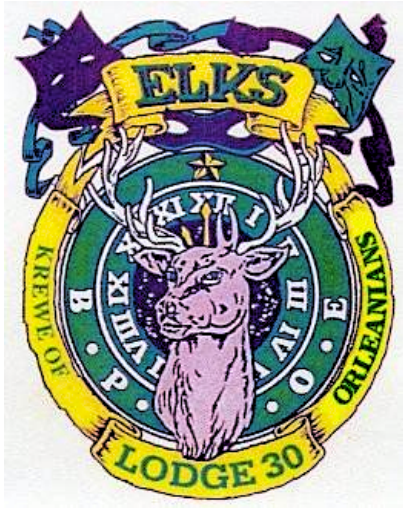
Elks National Foundation. The end of the fiscal year is near! Thanks to passionate donors and dedicated volunteers, the Community Investments Program gave Elks the resources needed to address the unique needs of their communities; the Elks Hoop Shoot unleashed gritty, hard-working kids; the scholarships programs helped the next generation of changemakers attend college; and so much more.

While the end of the fiscal year provides an opportunity to look back on what your generosity has helped accomplish, it also serves as a reminder of all that can still be done in the final weeks before the March 31 donation deadline.

If our Lodge reaches the National President's per-member-giving goal before March 31, it will be eligible for a \$3,000 Gratitude Grant next year—and there are four bonuses our Lodge can earn that bring the grant's total to \$5,000!

All donations must be received by March 31 to count toward the 2025-26 fiscal year. To ensure that your donation makes it to the ENF office on time, consider giving online. It is safe, secure, and the easiest way to donate. Just go [HERE](#).

POSTCARD FROM THE PAST



Every year in New Orleans, carnival parading season concludes on Mardi Gras, with a convoy of almost 200 semi tractors towing hand-decorated floats occupied by families, clubs, coworkers, and other private groups that shower crowds with beads, baubles, and toys. The Krewe of Elks-Orleans, founded in 1935, is known for being the oldest and largest of the truck parades.

This year Mardi Gras is February 17, 2026, and as always, it wraps up with Rex, the King of Carnival who leads the Krewe of Rex parade. As is tradition, the Elks truck parade follows Rex. This traditional, family-friendly event features over 50 individually designed truck floats, with the route starting at Napoleon Ave and S. Claiborne St and ending at Elk Place and Tulane Ave.

CHARLES A. S. VIVIAN



1842 - 1880

The moving spirit behind the Elks was an Englishman named Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian. Born October 22, 1842, this son of a clergyman was a successful comic singer and dancer in the music halls of London. In November of 1867, Vivian arrived in New York City seeking fame and fortune.

His gregarious personality soon attracted many other actors and entertainers as friends. New York City's blue laws prohibited public entertainment and liquor sales on Sunday. An exemption was made for private clubs. Under Vivian's leadership a loose organization was formed to make the most of the thespian's day off. They called themselves the Jolly Corks, a name derived from a trick introduced by Vivian in which the uninitiated were tricked into buying a round of drinks.

When one of their members died shortly before Christmas in 1867, leaving his wife and children destitute, the Jolly Corks decided that in addition to good fellowship, they needed a more enduring organization to serve those in need.

On February 16, 1868, 15 men established the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and elected Vivian to head it. Its social activities and benefit performances increased the popularity of the new Order. Membership grew rapidly. Elks traveling to other cities spread the word of the Brotherhood of Elks. Soon there were requests for Elks Lodges in cities other than New York. In response to these appeals, the Elks asked the New York legislature for a charter authorizing the establishment of a Grand Lodge with the power to establish local Lodges anywhere in the United States. When the Grand Lodge charter was issued, the founders then received the first local charter as New York Lodge No. 1 on March 10, 1871.



The Jolly Corks

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 (1994-1995)

Chuck Hoornstra (1995-1996, 2001-2002)

Kristi Barbian (2011-2013)

Steve Sasso (2013-2015)

AUXILIARY

President **LaVerne Schwengel**

Past President **Gloria Simley**

Vice President **Donna Campanelli**

Secretary **Jeanette May**

Treasurer **Michelle Braithwaite**

BOARD MEMBERS

Ann Bailey

Carol Rohde



Live@theLodge

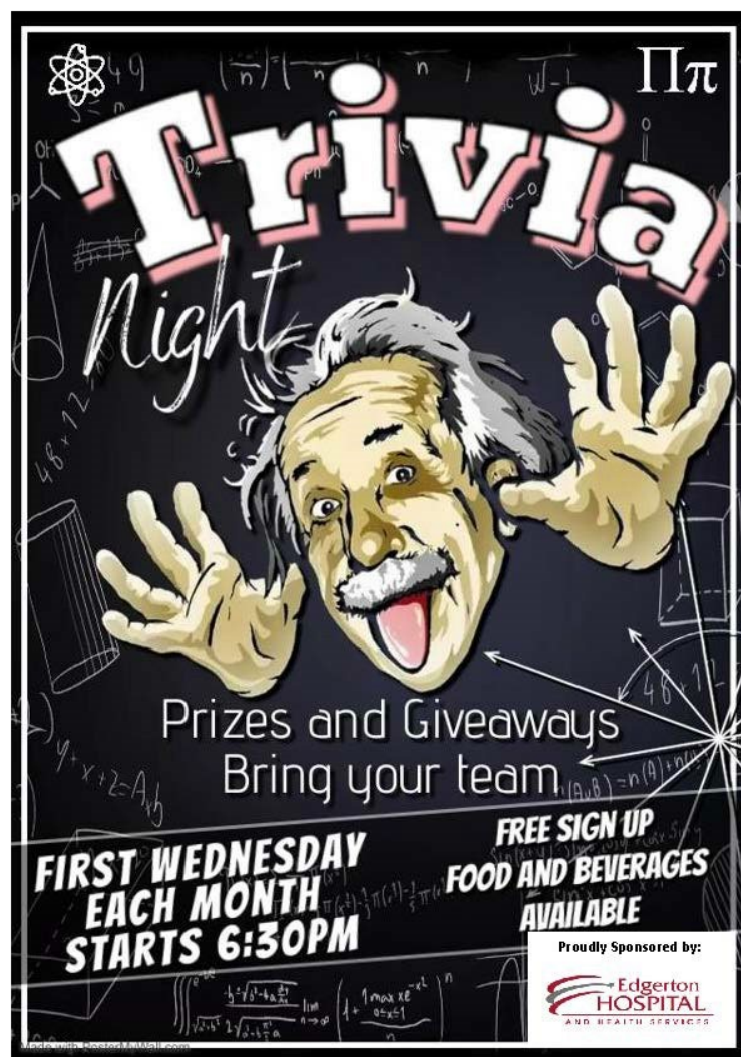
Live music

every

Thursday

5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

No cover charge



BUILDING & GROUNDS

By Jim Schuessler

The Building and Grounds Committee would like to recognize the many members who volunteered to decorate the Lodge for our annual 70's Prom with VO5. Fifteen members turned out to hang pom poms, crepe paper streamers, and balloons ... lots of balloons! The festive decorations set the stage for a great show on January 24.

We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our new dinnerware which is backordered. Combined with the new silverware which we purchased last year, our dining room tables will be looking better than ever. We are hoping they arrive soon!

We've begun refreshing the office in the lower level so it can be used for our banquet clients needing a private space. We've started by cleaning it out and painting it. As time goes on, we'll be furnishing and decorating to make it a welcoming and functional space.

We upgraded our lodge Wi-Fi this past month. The speed is now 20X faster than previously. This was necessary to allow for the new Square POS (Point of Sale System) which was launched on December 29. You'll notice that our waitstaff are now using handheld devices, which work on Wi-Fi, to enter orders. The faster speed will be a benefit to our members as well and support other technological needs at the Lodge in the future. As for our new Square POS, it was a challenging process to switch to a new system, and we are still tweaking the software to make it work as intended.

I'd like to remind everyone that we still have space available on our kayak rack at a cost of \$135 per year on a first-come, first-served basis. Spring will be here before you know it! If you'd like to reserve a spot, please email office@madisonelkslodge.org.

If you'd like to get involved with our building and grounds projects, please reach out to me. It's a great way to build new friendships within the Lodge and there is a certain satisfaction that comes with making our facility a nicer place for all to enjoy.

Our Building and Grounds Committee is focused on saving costs and improving our Lodge for our members and guests. For more information, contact Jim Schuessler at jschuessler@starkhomes.com, or call or text at (608) 445-0766.



We still have space available for year-long kayak storage! Cost is \$135/year. Reserve your spot now. Contact the office at (608) 255-1644 or office@madisonelkslodge.org



ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

By **Samantha Linden** and **Allison Cooley**

As of this writing, we're deep in the throes of winter with frigid temperatures and ice and snow everywhere. But Elks are resilient and robust creatures that thrive in large herds – so join your herd at the Lodge this February! The welcoming staff, hearty food, great entertainment, and jovial fellow Elks will warm your heart and feed your soul.

What could be warmer than a traditional Irish fiddle session in the cozy bar area of the lodge! A new monthly series, **Fiddle Jam**, will premier Thursday, February 5, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Daithi Wolfe on the fiddle will host this advanced Irish session guaranteed to get your toes tapping and put a smile on your face. Advance players are invited to participate, and everyone to enjoy the music. This series will continue the first Thursday of every month. For questions, call or text Daithi at (608) 513-5246. Our tradition of Thursday night music continues with **The Brian Whitty Group** on February 12 (on the lower level with lots of space for dancing!), **Sean Michael Dargan** playing folk, roots and Americana on February 19 and Lodge favorite **Back 40** on February 26.

Elk's members and guests are enjoying **Sunday Brunch** offered every Sunday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Lodge. If jazz is your thing, we will host a different jazz ensemble on the third Sunday of each month. On February 15 we will feature the Bill Roberts Combo.

February 28 at 7 p.m. the lodge once again welcomes **Hirt Alpert**, celebrating the swinging brass sounds of Herb Alpert, Al Hirt, and other greats. There will be a huge buffet-style dinner starting at 6 p.m. with music beginning at 6:30 p.m. The cost of the buffet is \$35 and reservations are essential.

If your heart and soul aren't warmed enough by the above events, then the **Sip & See Happy Hour**, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25 will absolutely do the trick! This event supports Custom Canines Service Dog Academy. There will be raffles and puppies – can't go wrong with that!

Wednesdays continue to be hopping at the lodge with **Trivia** on the first Wednesday of the month and **Euchre** on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday, and **Name That Tune** on February 18.

Looking ahead to March, mark your calendars for the Elk's **St. Patrick's Day Party** on Tuesday, March 17. We'll have Daithi Wolfe's band The Currach Trio

playing traditional Celtic tunes perfect for dancing and raising a pint or two. We'll also have the UW Slainte Irish Dancers and some other special shenanigans in store, so make plans now to get your Irish on and join us. Additionally, **March Madness** will run from March 15-early April. Keep your eyes out for details in February on joining the College Basketball fun and friendly competition!

There are always new events happening at the Lodge, so please check the [monthly calendar](#) and the This Week at the Lodge emails frequently. If you are not getting those weekly emails, please check your spam folder.

How do YOU see the Entertainment Committee impacting the Lodge and membership? Are there events you would like to see more of at the Lodge? Let us know by connecting with our members! You can also reach Allison and Samantha via email at alliecool1@gmail.com and samantha.linden20@gmail.com.

We want to thank all our volunteers who helped out in January: Aaron Freis, Allison Cooley, Amanda Stein, Ann Braithwaite, Bryan Siltman, Charles Duncan, Don Geier, Eric Schultz, Geoff Gaston, Heidi Herziger, Jeff Kingston, Jeff Riley, Jim Schuessler, Judi Trampf, Karen Bosold, Kathy Unger, Lindsey Lee, Lu Vail, Lynn Lee, Lynn Riley, Mary Bach, Michelle Braithwaite, Renee Lauber, Ritt Deitz, Robin Beal, Samantha Linden, Sherie Sasso, Traci Schroeckenthaler, and Victoria Effington-Deitz.

There are wonderful **benefits of volunteering** at Elks Lodge 410 in 2026:

- Unlimited fountain soda drinks while volunteering.
- One beer or rail drink after a volunteer shift (via token).
- After a minimum 3-hour volunteer shift, one burger or sandwich (if the kitchen is open) or if the volunteer event provides food, i.e., the Spaghetti Dinner, one complimentary dinner.
- The Lodge will list the names of volunteers in the monthly *Elkliner*.
- The Lodge will host a Volunteer Appreciation Night!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

1 James Capaul, Don Geier
2 Timothy Turino
4 Jordan Corning, Catherine Cullen, Jacob Daniel Smith
5 Cory Frank, John Miller, Michele Miller Hayes
6 Philip Klein
7 Curtis Hossman, Randy Schwab
8 Bradley Fox
9 Wayne Simon, Steven Tinker
10 Paul Steinmetz
11 Thomas Clauder, Steven Farrey, Richard N. Olson,
Todd Schommer, Daniel Schultz
12 Paul Greisen
13 Kenneth Kruska, Stephen Kuhn, James Shunk
14 Ronald McLean
15 Dan Curd, David Lynett

16 Kathy Revello, Donald Swinton
18 Conrad Marks, Darlene Noggle
20 Loretta Blankenheim, Katherine Cullen
21 Mark Gladue
24 John Kollath
25 Alan Kekahuna
26 Steve Sasso, Patricia Whitely
28 Maria Antoinette Cannarella, Sabrina Sims
29 Mathew Cizik, Ben Hobbins, Tiffany Olson

WELKOME NEW MEMBERS

Steven Farrey
Lindsey Jung
Todd Madaus
John Mueller
Robert Peebles

Euchre

Playing Euchre is a great way to meet fellow Elks members. You get a new partner every game! Bring your friends.

Please sign up at the bar so we can ensure proper staffing!

Come for cards, stay for dinner!

\$5.00 per person Buy In
Prizes will be determined based on the number of entries

Saturday, February 28th
Register 12:30 pm – Play at 1:00 pm

Madison Elks Lodge #410
711 Jenifer Street
Madison, WI 53703



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. Sunday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. for Brunch.

BANQUETS & PRIVATE EVENTS

For your next private event, big or small, please consider the Lodge. Call Kaycie at (608) 333-5694 or email banquets@madisonelkslodge.org.

SEEN AT THE LODGE



Despite the below zero temperatures outside, things were very hot inside at the Lodge on Prom Night with VO5.

February 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Groundhog's Day	3	4 Trivia, 6:30 pm	5 ♫ Fiddle Jam, 6-9 pm	6	7
8	9	10	11 Membership Meeting, 7 pm Euchre, 5:45 pm	12 ♫ The Brian Whitty Group, 5:30-8:30 pm,	13 ♫ Lois at the Piano	14 Valentine's Day Hoop Shoot, Wausau
15 ♫ Jazz Brunch, Bill Roberts Combo, 9 am – 1 pm	16 Presidents' Day BPOE Founders Day	17 Primary Election Day Mardi Gras	18 Name That Tune, 6-8 pm	19 ♫ Sean Michael Dargan Trio, 5:30-8:30 pm	20 WEA Midwinter Conference, Green Bay	21 WEA Midwinter Conference, Green Bay
22 WEA Midwinter Conference, Green Bay	23	24	25 Sip & See Happy Hour, 4:30-6:30 pm Membership Meeting, 7 pm.	26 ♫ Back 40, 5:30-8:30 pm	27 ♫ Lois at the Piano	28 Euchre, 12:30 pm ♫ Hirt Alpert & Buffet, 6 pm

Next Month: **The Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Raffle**
Saturday, March 21, 4 – 8 p.m.



The 2025-2026 Hoop Shoot local competition was held at East High School on Saturday, December 20th. A huge shout out to Aaron Freis, our Hoop Shoot Coordinator, and all our volunteers! Aaron continues to get more contestants each year. This year we had 39 participants and sent five kids to the district competition on January 10 in Waukesha. Of those five kids, three are moving on to the state competition to be held on February 14 in Wausau at 10:00 a.m. (John Muir Middle School, 1400 Stewart Avenue). Don Geier and Kathy Unger will be accompanying Tristian, Zane, and Eila to Wausau for the state event. Winners at Wausau will advance to Regionals in Iowa City. Congratulations and good luck to all our champions!

Irish Fiddle Jam



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Elks Club

Advanced Irish session
hosted by Daithi Wolfe
on fiddle. Experienced
players only, please.
6-9pm on the first
Thursday of every
month, starting Feb. 5
at the Elks Club in the
upstairs bar.

Questions? Call or Text
Daithi at 608-513-5246

SEAN MICHAEL DARGAN TRIO



THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 19
5:30 – 8:30

ELKS
LODGE 410

JOIN US FOR A
SIP & SEE
HAPPY HOUR

FUNDRAISER and 50/50 RAFFLE
IN SUPPORT OF

CUSTOM CANINES
SERVICE DOG ACADEMY

BRING A TOY OR MAKE A DONATION
TO ENJOY A CUDDLE WITH A PUPPY



WEDNESDAY

February

4:30 - 6:30 PM

25

MADISON ELKS LODGE
711 JENIFER ST
MADISON, WI



THE RETURN OF HIRT ALPERT

THE HIP MUSIC OF HERB ALPERT, AL HIRT,
BURT BACHARACH, AND ALL OF YOUR
EARLY SIXTIES GROOVY HITS!



ELKS

LODGE
LOUPE
410
410

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 BAR OPENS
AT 4:30
BUFFET AT 6PM, SHOW AT 6:30

BRUNCH MENU

TWO EGGS ANY STYLE, THREE STRIPS OF BACON
OR TWO SAUSAGES, BREAKFAST POTATOES, TOAST 8

EGGS BENEDICT - ENGLISH MUFFIN, POACHED EGGS,
CANADIAN BACON, HOLLANDAISE SAUCE 12

BELGIAN WAFFLE WITH FRUIT, WHIPPED CREAM
& MAPLE SYRUP, BREAKFAST POTATOES 11

BREAKFAST BURGER WITH BACON, CHEDDAR, EGG,
FRIED ONION STRAWS, BREAKFAST POTATOES 12

BREAKFAST BURRITO (HORIZO, PEPPERS, ONIONS, EGG, CHEESE,
TOMATO, AVOCADO, SALSA, BREAKFAST POTATOES 12

BUILD YOUR OWN 3-EGG OMELET - (CHOOSE FROM SPINACH, MUSHROOMS,
PEPPERS, ONIONS, BACON OR SAUSAGE, MIXED CHEESE,
WITH BREAKFAST POTATOES AND TOAST 10

BISCUITS AND GRAVY - SAUSAGE GRAVY AND HOMEMADE
BISCUITS WITH BREAKFAST POTATOES 7
ADD EGG ANY STYLE 2

HOUSE-MADE VEGETARIAN BLACK BEAN PATTY AVAILABLE

SIDES

THREE STRIPS OF BACON, TWO SAUSAGE LINKS, OR
TWO SLICES OF CANADIAN BACON 2

FRUIT BOWL 2

TOAST WHITE OR WHEAT, ENGLISH MUFFIN, OR BISCUIT 1.50

ORANGE JUICE 2

BOTTOMLESS CUP OF COFFEE REG OR DECAF 2



Madison Elks Lodge #410
ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER & RAFFLE
Saturday, March 21, 2026
4 – 8 p.m.

It will soon be time to enjoy what has been a Lodge tradition for more than 50 years. Please mark your calendar now and invite your family and friends to join you! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Its success depends upon your support and generosity. We ask for your help in three ways:

1. **Buy and sell raffle tickets.** We will send you 10 raffle tickets (more are available at the bar and will be on sale at the event). The cost of the tickets is \$10 each, and the drawing is for cash prizes. Please keep the portion that says “keep this stub” and return the rest with your check to: Madison Elks Lodge, 711 Jenifer St, Madison, WI 53703.

WIN CASH!

\$600, \$500, \$400, \$300, \$200, five \$100 and twenty \$50 prizes will be given away.

2. **Volunteer to work at the event.** You will receive an email via SignUpGenius or you can sign up in the bar (shifts: 2-4, 4-6 or 6-8 p.m.).
3. **Come to the Lodge to eat spaghetti.** Non-members are welcome as well – please tell your friends!

Food will be served from 4 until 8 p.m. (the bar will be open until 10 p.m.). The raffle drawing will be at 8 p.m. and you do not need to be present to win. Dinner choices include:

Homemade Spaghetti & Meatballs (2) or an Italian Sausage (or plant-based sausage)

with Salad & Garlic Bread

\$12 for Adults, \$6 for Children (6 to 12)

Extra Meatballs \$1.50, Extra Sausage \$3

Cannoli \$4.75, Red Wine \$4 per glass

We intentionally keep the price low because we want to attract as many people as possible, including potential new members. More information about this event will be posted in the *Elkliner*, via e-mail and on Facebook during the coming days. **PLEASE BUY RAFFLE TICKETS AND COME TO THE SPAGHETTI DINNER! WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT! THANK YOU!**

Sherie Sasso

Exalted Ruler

Madison Elks Lodge #410