

MID-MICHIGAN ELK

Midland, MI B.P.O.E. Lodge 1610 989-835-2271
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www.elks1610.org

EXALTED RULER MESSAGE – “LOOKING FORWARD”

I work for a small company: just over a dozen employees. I remember when I was the “young blood,” only 24 years old. Now, many years later, as we hire new employees in that age range, I’m forced to examine what changes as time goes by. Certainly there’s more emphasis on family, and less on hanging out with the guys. More time for home improvements, much less time for road trips, parties and entertainment. Putting money in the retirement portfolio, rather than in the weekend bar fund. And yet, in the world of Elks, I am still a young blood.

The Elks, like most other fraternal organizations, has an aging and shrinking membership. We know our situation. We need to attract younger members. The challenge is figuring out just what attracts the younger crowd, and finding a way to implement changes without alienating the current membership base.

I enjoy the club, the dinners and the camaraderie of our members, but if it were only that, it wouldn’t have the same appeal. For me, the primary attractions of the Elks are its dedication to charity and patriotism. The Elks values are key to my interest and involvement. The more I learn about the

Elks, our history, and all of the great programs, the more proud I am of my membership. I truly believe there’s a large part of the population that’s seeing this kind of organization and friendship with like-minded individuals. I’m making it my top priority as Exalted Ruler to find these folks and invite them to be members of the lodge.

I ask you as members, to ask yourself what’s important to you about the Elks. Share your answers with friends, relatives and children; share your answers with potential members and ask them to join the Elks. I know that the lodge officers are looking forward to this year; we’re gearing up for more frequent events and opportunities for everyone to get involved. We’re ready to show potential members what the Elks is all about.

Fraternally,
Ryan Ruzala, Exalted Ruler

EUCHRE PLAYERS FINISH SEASON

Thursday, April 27th was the last meeting of the euchre club for the season. After they finished playing they treated themselves to a chicken dinner. We would like to thank the group for their generous donation to the lodge.

ELKS 1610 RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE MONDAY, MAY 1ST.

Tickets for the Midland Elks High Dollar Raffle will be available Monday, May 1st at the club and from several members. The tickets are \$50.00 each with the drawing on Friday, June 23rd at the lodge. Prizes are as follows:

- First -- \$1000.00
- Second -- \$500.00
- Third -- \$250.00
- Fourth -- \$125.00
- Fifth -- \$50.00

All prizes will be paid. Proceeds will be used to support our charities and lodge operations. Tickets will be available at the bar. You need not be present to win.
GOOD LUCK!

WORK BEE SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY MAY 6TH AT 9:00AM.

The May work bee will concentrate on the cleanup of the grounds and sizing up a couple of repairs needed outside of the building as well as several minor repairs in the club and lodge. Any and all members are welcome. The more members that participate the more we accomplish in a short period of time.

LODGE FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR RENT FOR EVENTS FROM 10 TO 200 PEOPLE

Our lodge facilities are available for rent most days of the week. There are several rental options depending on your needs. The base rent is \$150.00 for members and \$300.00 for non-members. In addition, a cleaning charge and security deposit will be required. Food and bar service is available.

Pass the word around that our facilities are one of the best in Midland. Call the club manager after 2:00pm on weekdays for more information.

INITIATION OF NEW MEMBERS SCHEDULED ON MAY 16TH.

The Lodge meeting on Tuesday, May 16th will include the initiation of two new members. They are Marty Beach and Lois Riszala both sponsored by Ryan Ruzala. The evening will begin at 6:00pm with a steak dinner. The meeting and initiation will begin at 8:00pm. We encourage all members to attend. Reservations for the steak dinner are due no later than Monday evening, May 15th.

MICHIGAN ELKS ASSOCIATION SPRING CONVENTION WILL BE HELD IN MIDLAND MAY 18-20

The convention will be held at Valley Plaza Resort on Bay City Road. All members are welcome and urged to attend. The schedule for the Midland Lodge is as follows;

- Thursday, May 18th the state officers dinner will be held in Garden Room at 7:00pm.
- Friday, May 19th the lodge will open at noon. Our normal Fish Fry will take place that evening. A letter will be going out to each state lodge inviting them to our Fish Fry. If they are planning on joining us for dinner they will be asked to make reservations for either the 5:30pm seating, the 7:00pm seating or the 8:30pm seating. Reservations will be required from all our local attendees also.

- Saturday, May 20th, the lodge will open at 11:00pm for lunch and cocktails and remain open to 10:00pm.

DISCUSSION POINT: ON ATTRACTING THE YOUNGER CROWD

We talk at length about trying to encourage the enrollment of younger members. Times are changing, and attitudes are too. One of the common complaints (and excuses for not wanting to attend events at the Elks) that I hear from friends with young families is smoking. Given the layout of the club, even sitting in the non-smoking area requires going through the smoking area. Moreover, the non-smoking area is isolated and doesn't encourage interaction.

Many of our club regular members are smokers or are not bothered by smoke. "It's a bar" may be a valid response, but of it's a reason the potential members are staying away, is it valid enough? Don't confuse this article with a proposal to ban smoking. It's merely a request for discussion. Is our current setup appealing to our members and properly apportioned? Or do we have an imbalance that needs correction – as is suggested occasionally during the Friday Fish Fry when the non-smoking section cannot handle the number of requests. Consider the situation, and voice your opinion

Ryan Ruzala

VOLUNTEERS DURING THE PAST MONTH

Thanks to these members who volunteered their time and talents during this past month. Kathy and Adam Brentlinger, Ryan Ruzala, Jim Humphrey, Rachel Holinsworth, Joan Ovatt, Bill Murray, Bob Woods and Pat Wilkins. The editor's apologies if I missed anybody.

During the upcoming State Convention, we will need several volunteers to help during the Fish Fry on Friday evening May 19th. Please contact Don at the bar if you are willing and able to give us a hand. Thanks for your support.

ELKS GOLF OUTING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY JULY 19TH AT SANDY RIDGE.

The annual Elks golf outing has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 19th at Sandy Ridge Golf Club. Don Bowen is heading up the outing again this year. Don needs volunteers to be on the planning committee and also to obtain sponsorships and prizes. If you are interested, leave your name at the bar and they will pass on to Don.

VISIT THE ELKS WEBSITE AT WWW.ELKS1610.ORG FOR THE BULLETIN AND THE LATEST IN CLUB AND LODGE NEWS.

WEDNESDAY MAY 10, 2006

BBQ RIBS

6:00 PM

\$8.00 PER PERSON

RESVERATIONS BY MONDAY, MAY 8 AT 5:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2006

BURGERS & BRAWTS

6:00 PM

\$8.00 PER PERSON

RESERVATION BY MONDAY, MAY 22 AT 5:00 PM