

Watertown Elks

Lodge #666

100th Anniversary

1901

2001



James Kraemer
Exalted Ruler
2000 - 2001



Jessie Stone
Exalted Ruler
1901



Jack Lemke
Exalted Ruler
2001 - 2002

Watertown Elks Lodge #666

100 years

Serving The Community

Elks Care - Elks Share

AS WE HAVE COMPLETED OUR FIRST 100 YEARS OF ELKDOM IN WATERTOWN, IT IS TIME FOR US TO PAUSE AND REFLECT ON THE PAST.

AS WITH ANY ORGANIZATION WE HAVE HAD OUR UPS AND DOWNS. WE EXPERIENCED SATISFACTION IN OVERCOMING EVERY ADVERSITY WE FACED. THERE WERE MANY OPINIONS OF WHICH WAY WE SHOULD GO, BUT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, MEMBERS ALWAYS WORKED TOGETHER FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR LODGE AND ELKDOM. MEMBERS SHOULD TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

WE HAVE ALWAYS CONTRIBUTED TO THE COMMUNITY, BUT ONLY IN RECENT YEARS THE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN MADE AWARE OF THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS WE SPONSOR. PREVIOUSLY, IT HAS BEEN THE BEST-KEPT SECRET ON A NATIONAL STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL.

THROUGH OUR PROGRAMS, WE REMEMBER OUR VETERANS; WE REMEMBER OUR YOUTH; WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE THAN WE ARE, ESPECIALLY THE HANDICAPPED.

AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT 100 YEARS, THE IDEALS OF ELKDOM, "CHARITY, JUSTICE, BROTHERLY LOVE AND FIDELITY," WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

PER GLENN FRIEDL, CHAIRMAN

DIANE FONTAINE
KEN GORA
RON LAYTON
CAROLYN LUEDTKE
LINDA MAAS

MARGARET MAGNAN
PER JIM MEYER
"SKIP" PRAHL
JIM PTASCHINSKI
CHUCK SIMS

Watertown Elks Lodge # 666

Watertown Wisconsin

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, an organization of American Citizens who loved their country and desired to preserve its cherished institutions, originated in New York City on February 16, 1886, by a group of men headed by Charles Vivian.

The declared purposes of the Benevolent and Protective Order are to practice its four cardinal virtues: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity. Associated with these are the promotion of the welfare and happiness of its members, to quicken the spirit of American patriotism, and to cultivate good fellowship among its members.

With these objectives in mind, on March 22, 1901, thirty-eight charter members established what is now known as Watertown Elks Lodge #666.

Madison, WI Lodge #410 was the sponsoring Lodge. Other Lodges present were:

- Waukesha, WI #400
- Fargo, N.D. #260
- Janesville, WI #254
- Hudson, WI #640
- Fond du Lac, WI #57
- Milwaukee, WI #46

A banquet was held at the Concordia House, which since December 1916, is the current home of the Watertown Lodge.

Watertown Elks Lodge was granted its dispensation on the date of the institution of the Lodge on March 22, 1901, and the charter was granted at the Grand Lodge session on July 25, 1901.

Jesse Stone, the first Exalted Ruler, was serving as Wisconsin's Lieutenant Governor at the time of his installation.

Charter member Col. A. Solliday was a veteran of both the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. In a special election, he was elected to the State Senate and reelected to another term.

Charter members who served as Watertown Mayors were Col. A. Solliday, 1884-1886; Herman Wertheimer, 1904-1906; and Charles Mulberger, 1916-1920.

Of the charter members, five were fathers and sons.

The first meetings were held in the Knights of Pythias Hall 103-105 E Main St (3rd floor of the building now occupied by Bismarck's Bar & Grill).



The first meetings of our Lodge were held on the 3rd floor of this building



Daub Building 10 East Main St.

In 1902 the Lodge occupied quarters on the 3rd floor of the Daub Building, 10 E Main St. The Lodge moved in 1907 to the 3rd floor of the Masonic Temple (now occupied by Fischer's Department Store). During this time the Elks Realty Company was formed for the purpose of purchasing real estate and sale of stock to members.

On January 5, 1916, the old Concordia Opera House was purchased. It was built in 1888. During the early 1900's the facility housed two theaters, the Empire and the Colonial, featuring both film and vaudeville acts – admission 10, 20 & 30 cents.



Colonial Theatre (circa 1910)

The Masonic Temple was gutted by fire on February 18, 1916, and all of the property and records of the Lodge were destroyed. Immediate alterations of the Concordia Opera House were made. The remodeling was completed and all furnishings were in place when the Lodge opened its facilities to its members on December 31, 1916.



Ruins of the Masonic Temple

In 1917, an ice cream parlor was opened in the lower level of the building in an area designed for dining purposes. A complete set of new furniture was made for the room. The chairs and tables were painted a cream color that matched the tints of the walls and fixtures. Palms and sago trees gave the place a summery atmosphere. A soda fountain and ice cream stand were situated at the end of the room opposite the main entrance.

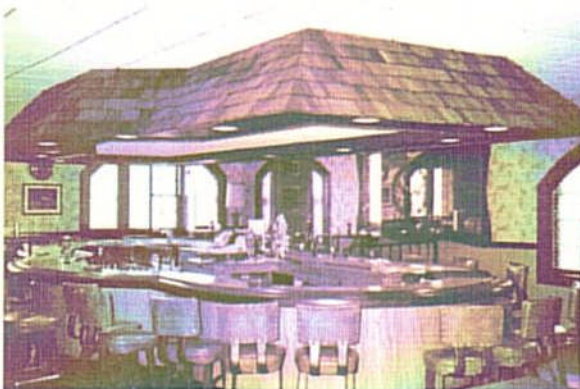
During the ensuing years, various alterations and remodeling projects were made to the interior of the building. A coal stoker was purchased in 1934. In 1937, the grillroom was changed to a bar, and the ladies room and lodge room were redecorated.



Cocktail Lounge 1950

During 1938 the Lodge purchased 2 pin setting machines for the bowling alleys and authorized the installation of a golf driving net in the upper ante-room. In 1939 authorization was approved for the purchase of air conditioning in the bar & card room.

Our current lounge bar was installed in 1950.



Present cocktail lounge

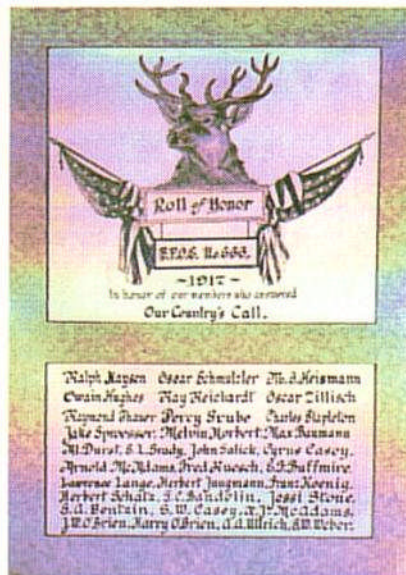
Tap beer was installed in the bar lounge in 1985.

The head bartender became the club manager in 1979 and in 1986 a Board of Governors became the managing body for all Club functions.

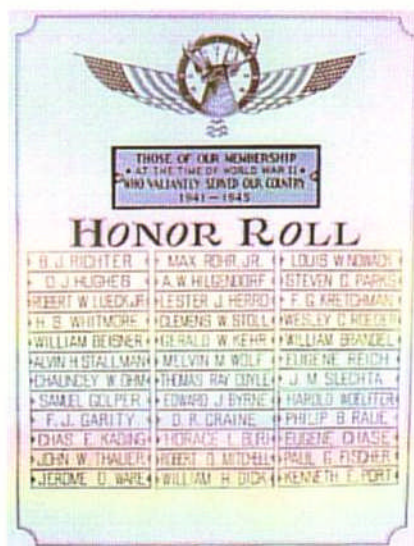
In 1993, a lodge office was established in the lower level.

Through the years the Lodge has been very active in providing service to the community. ELKS CARE – ELKS SHARE.

During World War I and World II, the Elks were very supportive of the military.



Roll of Honor World War I



Roll of Honor World War II

“So long as there are veterans in our hospitals, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.”

In 1918, Elks built and equipped the 1st two military hospitals in France. Also, a \$750,000 reconstruction hospital located in Boston was turned over to the Federal Government (a forerunner of Veterans Hospitals).

Our Lodge was a gathering place during the two wars for patriotic and community war efforts.

On December 8, 1941, the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Lodge offered the entire Ladies room and the northwest ante-room on the Lodge room floor to the local chapter of the Red Cross for their war program. These rooms were used for over three years, when they moved to larger quarters.

During WWII, members were encouraged to donate blood. The first veteran gift box was mailed to Fred Kretchman.

The Lodge was active in supporting “War Bond Drives.” Monetary donations were made to the Elks War Commission Drive to raise a total of \$500,000 to be used for the war effort.

A carton of cigarettes was sent to all members in service, and Christmas remembrances were mailed to service personnel.

Bingo and other parties were held in behalf of the veterans in hospitals. Kits of personal items, including lap blankets, and personal bed trays have been given to veterans in local facilities.

In 1981 the Elks National Service Commission appointed Brother Bill Connor as Deputy Representative to Veterans Administration Volunteer Service Committee at the VA Hospital in Madison.

During the Gulf War, lodge dues were suspended for members on active duty while they were in service.

The observance of Flag Day is mandatory for all Elk Lodges. Since 1996, the public has been invited to share this observance that is usually held at the Veterans Memorial Park in Watertown. Local veterans groups are invited to participate.



Flag Day Services – Veterans Memorial Park

The American Flag on display in our lounge was flown over the American Embassy, Amman, Jordan during 1993, and was presented to Watertown Elks Lodge by Lodge Member-Staff Sgt, Investigator Patrick J. Meyer, USMC.



In 1997, the Marine Corps League presented the "Distinguished Service Award" to the Watertown Elks Lodge.

"In appreciation and gratitude for meritorious service in the interests of the United States of America and the U.S. Marine Corps and Marine Corps League."

/s/ Kenneth L. Maas
Detachment Commander.

Mandatory Memorial Services are held each Year on the 1st Sunday in December. The Memorial Tablets for our deceased members were procured in 1930, and are placed on the stairway wall leading to our Lodge room.

Every year since approximately 1926, the Lodge has sponsored various scholarship programs, such as, scholastic, scholarship, leadership, and most valuable student contests.



"Most Valuable Students" Scholarship Winners
Back Row: Carmen & Nichole Fischer
Front Row: Rebecca Schmeisser, Brady Endl
& Ryan Elstad

Beginning in 1944, a US constitution contest is held each year. In 1985, Todd Slight placed 1st in the Wisconsin Elks Ass'n contest. Christina Capperino took the same honors in 1995.



"US Constitution" Winners
Back Row: Jordan Linder & Dan Burleson.
Front Row: Angela Witt & Lisa Grosenick

Every year since 1940, the Lodge has sponsored a high school student to attend Badger Boys State.

A football banquet was initiated in 1941 and continued until 1955. Starting in 1956 a sports banquet was put in place to include all sports. Due to logistics, the banquet only was continued until 1979.

In 1980 the Lodge donated athletic equipment to the High School for use in their training room. Some featured speakers at the banquets included such sports personalities as Don Hutson All-time All Pro Green Bay Packer end; Coach Ed Hicky, Marquette University Basketball; Willie Davis, All-Pro Packer defensive end; Ralph Kurek, Watertown High School and Chicago Bears fullback; Coach Al McGuire, Marquette University Basketball; and Ted Moore, sports announcer, WTMJ-Radio.

Christmas baskets were delivered each year beginning in 1939 until 1986. From that year Christmas dinners have been delivered and served to area residents every year on Christmas day. Approximately 5000 dinners have been delivered or served.



"Dinty" Meyer, Harold Blasing & A. J. Gamroth

The lower level sported a two-lane bowling alley for a number of years until 1957. The two lanes are still installed under the current flooring and the pin spots are marked in the storage room.

In 1931 the bowling team of Harry O'Brien, Joseph Lange, Fred Maerzke, L.M. Bickett and William Hartzheim broke three records and won the Elks National tournament in Detroit with an overall score of 3166.

The Watertown Lodge sponsored the Elks State Ass'n Bowling Tournaments in 1950, 1964, 1976, 1984, and 2001.

The Lodge has sponsored or cosponsored the High School Post Prom Party every year since 1952.

During recent years, Elks have sponsored an annual "Hoop Shoot" contest. It has attracted some 100 to 150 youngsters each year.



Annual Hoop Shoot at St. Bernard's Gym

Members have been involved with Easter Parties, Christmas Parades, July 4th Parades, Girl Scouts, and numerous other organizations in providing services to the community.

Each year since 1983, the Watertown Elks Lodge has sponsored a handicapped individual to Camp Pioneer in the Wisconsin Dells Area.

With the Waukesha Elks Lodge in 1990, Watertown cosponsored Zachary Gillingham as the Wisconsin State Ass'n Poster Child.

On June 3, 1928, the Watertown Lodge sponsored Beaver Dam Lodge #1540.

The cost of dinners preceding meetings was raised from 50 cents to 65 cents in 1945.

In 1948 new member, Brother Alfred Linde, responding for the initiates, concluded his remarks with a vocal rendition of Al Jolson's "Mammy."

On November 23, 1949, purchased the 1st TV (DuMont) set for the lounge.

November 8, 1950 saw the formation of the Past Exalted Rulers (PER) club.

An increase in lodge dues to \$21 per year came about in 1961.

The "Elk of the Year Award" was approved on January 13, 1965, with Brother Frank Semon being named as its first recipient.

The longest member of the Lodge was Lawrence Lange for 72 years from 1914 to 1986.

A resolution was passed on March 22, 1971, by the members of the Watertown Elks Lodge that they do not intend in the future to be bound by the "white" only clause that was in the Elks membership requirements.

Regularly scheduled fish fry's began in 1971.

The Annual Sweepstakes Raffle was instituted in 1971. Since 1981 the drawing has been during the annual Tom & Jerry party held Christmas Eve.

In 1974 the "Ladies of Elks" was organized. A name change took place in 1998 to "Elks Auxiliary". At the time of the organization, a prominent member was quoted as saying "It will never go." Twenty-seven years later it is still going. Thanks to all the members for their support of the Lodge.

On April 24, 1996, Watertown Elks Lodge received Grand Lodge Approval to incorporate as a private non-profit organization.

Ray and Marie Dobbratz, upon their retirement in January 2000, donated to the Lodge various hospital equipment such as electric hospital beds, wheelchairs, walkers, tub stools, elevated toilet seats, commodes, wooden and metal crutches, wooden and metal canes, lift chairs, Hoyer lifts and bedside tables. The Lodge will continue the practice of loaning the equipment at no cost to individuals who are in need of it.



Marie & Ray Dobbratz, ER Jim Kraemer & PER Jim Meyer, Chmn Hospital Equipment Program

Exalted Ruler Jim Kraemer established the "Citizen of the Year" award during the year 2000-2001. The first recipient was PER Jim Meyer.

The building in which the Lodge has been located since 1916 has been an integral part of the Watertown Elks Lodge. As previously stated the building was erected in 1888 as the Concordia Opera House. Subsequently, two theaters were housed in the building. On November 24, 1885 a warranty deed was issued to sell E 14ft in width was sold for \$1200 for an alleyway.

On November 30, 1915 the property, owned by William M. & Halcy L. Davenport, was sold to Frank P. McAdams for \$4500. One month later, on December 30, 1915 Frank P. McAdams sold the property to the Watertown Elks Realty for \$4500.

On June 24, 1938, the Watertown Elks Realty secured a mortgage in the amount of \$4500 from the Wisconsin National Bank in Watertown.

November 28, 1945 was the date that the Watertown Elks Realty issued a warranty deed to the trustees of the Watertown Elks Lodge in the amount of \$1.00. The mortgage fully paid and satisfied.



"Burning of the Mortgage"
O.C. Wertheimer, F.W. Koenig, & Wm. Sprosser

The building was appraised on October 1, 1980 at a value of \$280,000.00. Three years later on October 12, 1983 the contents were appraised at a value of \$23,260.00.

An offer to purchase the building was received on May 27, 1998. Membership approved the sale on June 22, 1998 and Grand Lodge approval was received on July 22, 1998. Membership tentatively approved a proposal to borrow up to \$250,000.00 to construct a new lodge building. However, on August 26, 1998, the potential buyers opted to cancel the offer to purchase the building.

Membership decided that a decision to remain in our present quarters was in the best interests of the Lodge. Therefore, Lodge and Grand Lodge approval was given to remodel the building in three separate phases.

First phase:

- Redecorate the dinning room by wall papering, painting, install new carpeting, and install new lighting fixtures.

Second phase:

- 2nd & 3rd floor installation of commercial thermo pane windows; replace H&A/C lower level; install A/C on the 2nd & 3rd floor; and insulate attic.

Phases one and two have been completed. Third phase:

- Expansion of building by annexing 14 ft to accommodate an elevator for all levels; install restrooms on the 3rd floor; and redecorate the lodge room.

The final phase should be completed during the summer of 2001.



Building Committee: Mark Dempsey, Tom Godfroy, Chmn Alvin Schloesser, Architect Jeffrey Kossman, ER Jim Kraemer, Dave Krattiger, Al Moran, John Wanke & Ken Gora



Jerry Hepp say's "Let's Go!"

As we are committed and dedicated to the ideals of Elkdom, we are also aware of a feeling of camaraderie as depicted in the following photographs of some social activities...



"Laughing at the photographer"
Don Krueger, Jack Lemke & Donovan Richards



Appleton Rattlers "Play Ball"
Mary & Bill Conner



"It's always good to sit and talk"
Lodge Picnic



Appleton Rattlers Baseball
"Good Seats - Long Warm-up"



"They must be up to something-all are smiling"
PER's Joe Fendt, Jim Meyer, Romy Tischler & Bill Riedl



Golf Outing Windwood CC
"Everyone is happy, Ron finally sank his putt"



Golf Outing Windwood CC
 "Where's my ball?"
 Frank Semon



"No, he's not praying"
 PER Jim Meyer



1994 Fall Conference
 Olympia Village Oconomowoc



State President Visitation January 1995
 ER Jack Lemke, WEA First Lady Carol Seitz, WEA
 President Jim Meyer & Lodge First Lady Louise
 Lemke



"After all the ballots were counted"
 PGER H. Foster Sears & WEA President Elect Jim Meyer



1994 Fall Conference
 Judy Erickson & her former boss,
 Governor Tommy Thompson



1994 Fall Conference Olympia Village
ER Jack Lemke, PGER H. Foster Sears, GER Ken
Moore, Governor Tommy Thompson &
WEA President Jim Meyer



You don't say"
Dave Krattiger & PER Chuck Bliefenicht



"Everybody is having fun"



"Some people will do anything"
Sue Krattiger & Jack Lemke



"More fun"



"These people are musicians?"
George Prahl, Mary Conner, Skip Prahl & Bill Riedl



"Looking up, for guidance"
PERs Joe Fendt, Mark Erikson & Wakesha's
Joe Schoenwalder



"Did we have fun?"
Al Moran, Cliff Moldenhauer, Ron Maas & Jack
Lemke



**"Leadership is questionable,
Entertainment was great"**
WEA State President Visitation January 1996
ER Mark Dempsy, WEA-VP Don Svoma & WEA
President Keith Simmons



"The most happy fella"
ER Jim Kraemer



"Guys, eat your hearts out"
Barb Friedl, PER Glenn Friedl & Dorothy Simmons



"What a spread, the food that is"

Lodge Officers 2000 – 2001

Exalted Ruler
James Kraemer

Leading Knight
Jack Lemke

Loyal Knight
Ron Layton

Lecturing Knight
Richard DeCono

Secretary
Dennis Daley

Treasurer
Don Krueger

Esquire
Alvin Schloesser

Tiler
Wayne Behm

Chaplain
Ralph Meiers

Inner Guard
Don Winton

Trustees

| | |
|----------|------------|
| Chairman | John Wanke |
| 2 years | Ron Maas |
| 3 years | Jim Meyer |

Lodge Officers 2001 – 2002

Exalted Ruler
Jack Lemke

Leading Knight
Ron Layton

Loyal Knight
Richard DeCono

Lecturing Knight
Ken Gora

Secretary
Glenn Friedl

Treasurer
Don Krueger

Esquire
Ralph Meiers

Tiler
Dick Mueller

Chaplain
James Kraemer

Inner Guard
John Wanke

Trustees

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| Chairman | Ron Maas |
| 2 years | Jim Meyer |
| 3 years | Alvin Schloesser |

WATERTOWN ELKS LODGE #666 EXALTED RULERS

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 1901 | Jesse Stone | 1966-1968 | Russell Twesme |
| 1901-1903 | G.H. Stanchfield | 1968-1970 | James Clifford |
| 1903-1905 | W.H. Woodward | 1970-1971 | Richard Johns |
| 1905-1907 | Arthur Mulberger | 1971-1972 | Thomas Woolley |
| 1907-1908 | Otto Hahn | 1972-1973 | Donald Bobb |
| 1908-1909 | J.E. McAdams | 1973-1974 | Garrett Fontaine |
| 1909-1911 | O.C. Wertheimer | 1974-1975 | Wilfred Riedl |
| 1911-1912 | J.E. McAdams | 1975-1977 | Ralph Meiers |
| 1912-1916 | E.F. McAdams | 1977-1978 | Charles Bliefernicht |
| 1916-1918 | O.C. Wertheimer | 1978-1979 | John Maas |
| 1918-1924 | E.F. McAdams | 1979-1980 | Thomas Fimmel |
| 1924-1928 | F.W. Koenig | 1980-1981 | Glenn Friedl |
| 1928-1929 | L.M. Bickett | 1981-1982 | Milo Shackley |
| 1929-1932 | W.P. Schlueter | 1982-1983 | Ralph Meiers |
| 1932-1934 | A.E. Bentzin | 1983-1984 | Mark Erickson |
| 1934-1935 | Joseph T. Lange | 1984-1986 | Jack Butcher, Sr. |
| 1935-1937 | C.E. Kading | 1986-1987 | Ken Sherman |
| 1937-1939 | W.C. Roeder | 1987-1989 | James Meyer |
| 1939-1941 | F.J. Kaercher | 1989-1990 | Charles Bliefernicht |
| 1941-1947 | F.J. Kaercher | 1990-1991 | Joseph Fendt |
| 1947-1949 | Dr. J.R. Casanova | 1991-1992 | Alvin Schloesser |
| 1949-1951 | A.A. Beyer | 1992-1993 | Romy Tischler |
| 1951-1952 | Dr. J.R. Casanova | 1993-1994 | Dennis Daley |
| 1952-1955 | C.O. Payant | 1994-1995 | Jack Lemke |
| 1955-1957 | Gordon Scott | 1995-1996 | Mark Dempsey |
| 1957-1959 | Earl Maas | 1996-1997 | Dennis Daley |
| 1959-1960 | Wayne Simon | 1997-1998 | Ron Maas |
| 1960-1962 | Wm Fitzgerald | 1998-1999 | Glenn Friedl |
| 1962-1963 | Ron Moser | 1999-2000 | Wilfred Riedl |
| 1963-1965 | Theo. Freitag | 2000-2001 | James Kraemer |
| 1965-1966 | J.P. Downing | | |

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WISCONSIN ELKS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

| | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| 1961-1962 | Dr. J.R. Casanova |
| 1994-1995 | James Meyer |

WISCONSIN ELKS ASSOCIATION VICE-PRESIDENTS

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Dr. J.R. Casanova | Glenn Friedl |
| Wilfred Riedl | Ken Sherman |
| Ralph Meiers | Dennis Daley |

**DISTRICT DEPUTY
GRAND EXALTED RULERS**

1926-1927 F.P. McAdams
 1934-1935 F.W. Koenig
 1956-1957 Dr. J.R. Casanova
 1977-1978 Russell Twesme
 1983-1984 Ralph Meiers
 1990-1991 Wilfred Riedl
 1995-1996 Glenn Friedl
 2000-2001 Dennis Daley

**LADIES OF ELKS
PRESIDENTS**

1974-1975 Diane Fontaine
 1975-1976 Rosemary Downing
 1976-1977 Sherry Engel
 1977-1978 Virginia Carroll
 1978-1979 Millie Hlava
 1979-1980 Betty Zoellick
 1980-1981 Roberta Tischler
 1981-1982 Margaret Magnan
 1983-1984 Patricia Wolverton
 1984-1986 "Skip" Prahl
 1986-1988 Viola Neear
 1988-1989 Ina Trummer
 1989-1990 Marie Kellerman
 1990-1992 Jeanne Reed
 1992-1993 "Skip" Prahl
 1993-1994 Deb McGraw
 1994-1995 "Skip" Prahl
 1995-1996 Roberta Tischler
 1996-1998 Sharon Darcy

**ELKS AUXILIARY
PRESIDENTS**

1998-1999 Linda Maas
 1999-2001 Margaret Magnan

**GRAND LODGE OFFICER
GRAND LECTURING KNIGHT**

1982-1983 Dr. J.R. Casanova

**SPECIAL GRAND LODGE
REPRESENTATIVE**

James Meyer, PER, PSP

ELK OF THE YEAR AWARD

1965 Francis Semon
 1966 Christie Coogan
 1967 Frank Kellerman
 1968 Lloyd "Dinty" Meyer
 1969 Dr. J.R. Casanova
 1970 Russell Twesme
 1971 George Vinger
 1972 Robert Hargraves
 1973 R.J. Hoge
 1974 William Connor
 1975 Robert Wicker
 1976 Earl Maas
 1977 Richard Johns
 1978 Elmer Molzner
 1979 Ralph Meiers
 1980 John D. Clifford
 1981 Donald Bobb
 1982 No Award
 1982 R. Casanova
 1983 Joseph Fendt
 1984 George Ebert
 1985 No Award
 1986 William Berger
 1987 Charles Bliefertnicht
 1988 No Award
 1989 Glenn Friedl
 1990 James Meyer
 1991 Wilfred Riedl
 1992 John Wanke
 1993 Joseph Fendt
 1994 Joseph Fendt
 1995 George Prahl
 1996 Eugene Brennan
 1997 Ron Maas
 1998 Cliff Moldenhauer
 2000 Ken Gora