



130 Years of Elkdom

PORT HURON ELKS LODGE 343

EXPOSITOR

PHONE: (810) 982-8531 • FAX: (810) 982-8743 • PRO SHOP: (810) 984-1204

ISSUE NO. 365

AUGUST 2026

MONTHLY PUBLICATION

AUGUST HAPPENINGS

37th Annual Metro District

Gold Key Golf Outing

Saturday, August 8

4-person scramble

Check in 7:30 am - Shotgun Start 8:30 am

\$135 person includes golf, cart, hot dog at turn and and dinner

More information and details to register inside on page 7

ELKS CHARITABLE GRANT FUND



89th Port Huron Elks 343

Blood Drive

Monday, August 17

12:00 pm to 5:45 pm

Couples, Clubs, and Cocktails

Friday, August 28



Golfing

Club Championship

Saturday & Sunday
August 15 & 16

Ladies Invitational

Friday & Saturday
July 31 & August 1

Stop by and cheer the ladies on!



Lodge Improvement Golf Tournament

Saturday, August 29

11:00 am Shotgun

\$55 entry fee includes prizes, golf cart & dinner



Register at Pro Shop

LUAU

Pig Roast Dinner

entertainment by

TWO AND A HALF MEN



More information and details to register inside on page 7

Diamond Art

every

Wednesday

3-5 pm

&

6-8 pm





Exalted Ruler Message

Hello members all. Happy August and the dog days of summer. July started out really hot, but at the time of this writing seems to have cooled down. I attended the GL National Convention in Chicago last month. What a celebration it was for both the 250th birthday of our Independence and the 100th Anniversary of National Headquarters Memorial Building and rededication. Karen Harris, Tami and myself went to see and tour this magnificent building while we were

there. Mike and Justina Bartolotta were able to attend the 100th Anniversary ceremony on July 4th. I would highly encourage every Elk member to take a road trip to Chicago and visit the historic building. In doing so, get an Elks Passport Book and stop and check out some other Lodges along your journey.

One of the highlights of the Convention was seeing someone from Michigan become a National champ of the 11 O'clock Toast charge and winning "THE CALLICOTT AWARD". Wendy Gauthier of Traverse City Lodge was the champion this year. Scott R. Harris, DDGER can now sleep better at night knowing he lost to the eventual National champion when he competed at the State convention this past May.

Elkdom is continuing to grow as membership has increased for the 5th consecutive year. Michigan was helping lead the way as we were 7th in the nation with a net gain of +318, moving up from 13th last year. Across the nation we welcomed 92,000 new members into our Order. Every new candidate initiated is one more spark fueling a thriving and successful year. Let's keep the momentum going and keep growing.

I have now seen and met the past three Grand Exalted rulers. Each GER has a platform to which they use to promote Elkdom. The last two were "Make A Difference" and "Be The Difference". This year is "READY ELKS? LET'S GO". Let's go out there and help on a committee, let's go out and assist with a community event, or let's go out and make a difference in a special needs child's life. Remember we have the Pink Piggy bank challenge coming up in September. Start gathering your coins for kids and help put a smile on their faces.

In closing, remember our obligation and to support our cardinal principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity and remind ourselves ELKS CARE – ELKS SHARE. Enjoy these last couple months of summer.

Fraternally Yours,
John C. Cuthbertson, PER
Exalted Ruler

Mark your calender

Mark your Calender for "September 11th Ceremony" to be held on September 11th at 4 pm at the Lodge pavilion, weather permitting.



"Be PROUD to be a member and show your Elks Membership Card"

Go to Facebook.com for all the latest updates...

- PHElksLodge343
- PortHuronElksBanquets
- phelksloddge343GolfClub



In Remembrance of our Departed Members

• **Karl Livingston #9348**

Initiated September 9, 1994

September 22, 1947 - June 23, 2026

• **Ann M. DeBell**

Widow Status - wife of Willaim DeBell Sr. #6939

July 12, 1943 - July 15, 2026



Our prayers to the families who have lost a loved one...

Hilda Livingston ~ Loss of Spouse

Welcome NEW MEMBERS...

Adam Hoffman • Alec Kocis
Tommy Shaw • Joshua Simpson

Reinstated...

• Jeff Smigielski • Nicholas Sansom • Richard Clark

SPEEDY RECOVERY

We wish a speedy recovery for our members who have been either home ill or hospitalized.

PER Marv Ohrling

John Stewart

Theresa Conroy

PER Joe Barbe

Tom Erd

Larry Allison

John Chambliss

Jeff Blashill

Sharen Brenton

Pat Hudgens

A lot of pride in being a volunteer...

Being a volunteer as a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks brings a deep sense of pride, purpose, and fulfillment that is difficult to match. The Elks have a long tradition of serving their communities through charitable work, supporting veterans, helping children, providing scholarships, and lending a hand to families in need. As an Elk, volunteering is more than simply giving time—it is about living the organization's values of charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity. Whether organizing fundraising events, preparing meals for community gatherings, participating in holiday programs, or supporting local causes, every act of service has the power to make a meaningful difference in someone's life. Seeing the appreciation on the faces of those who receive help reminds volunteers that even small acts of kindness can have a lasting impact. Along the way, Elks members build lasting friendships with fellow volunteers who share the same commitment to giving back and creating a strong sense of fellowship. The satisfaction that comes from working together to improve the lives of others is one of the greatest rewards of being an Elk. Knowing that your efforts help uphold the organization's proud tradition of service leaves you with a lasting feeling of accomplishment and the confidence that you are making your community a better place for future generations. It is a legacy of service that inspires members to continue giving back for years to come.

Grand Lodge 161st Convention in Chicago

The leadership of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks got down to business with the first business session of the 161st Grand Lodge Session and elected Timothy F. Jaeger, of Napa, CA Lodge No. 832, as Grand Exalted Ruler for the 2026-2027 which took pace from July 5th to the 8th.

The Grand Exalted Ruler's report was followed by the report of Chairman of the Elks National Convention Commission PGER Millard C. Pickering, of Sapulpa, OK Lodge No. 1118. He announced that the 2027 convention will be held in Denver, Colorado. He also announced that Baltimore, Maryland, will be the site of the 2028 convention and Reno, Nevada, hosting the 2030 convention.

This year's convention was attended by Port Huron Elks Lodge 343 members ER John & Tami Cuthbertson PER, along with DDGER Scott R. & Karen A. Harris, and PSP Michael & Justina Bartolotta.

Pictures below and top right are of John, Tami and Karen visiting the Elks National Memorial Headquarters building. This year marked the 100th anniversary of the building and dedication.

Scott R Harris was attending DDGER training or he would have attended as well.



All proposed resolutions passed:

Resolution 2026-01: To clarify that members of the Elks National Drug Awareness Commission are to be appointed in the same or similar manner as other national foundation boards and commissions .

Resolution 2026-02: To clarify the Grand Forum does not have jurisdiction over a matter if the Appellant does not timely appeal and pay the required fees .

Resolution 2026-03: To allow appeals of decisions of the Lodge's supervising or managing body to also be heard at a special meeting of the Lodge .

Resolution 2026-04: To allow a hearing on a request for a pardon or commutation to also be heard at a special meeting of the Lodge



MICHIGAN ELKS ASSOCIATION METRO DISTRICT #4200 FUN DAY AT UWM FIELD

DISTRICT FUNDRAISER
METRO DISTRICT FAMILY & FRIENDS DAY!

**SUNDAY
AUGUST 9, 2026**

**GATES OPEN
12:00 PM**

**GAME STARTS
1:05 PM**

**ADMISSION
\$30 PER PERSON**

**FREE PARKING,
SHUTTLES
AVAILABLE**

**PICK UP TICKETS
AT WILL CALL
ON GAME DAY**

**CLICK THE LINK BELOW OR
SCAN THE QR CODE TO
PURCHASE TICKETS!**

<https://square.link/u/cHujLyrV>

**COME AND ENJOY WITH
OTHER LODGE MEMBERS
AND FAMILIES!**

**LET'S MAKE MEMORIES TOGETHER!
SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY. SUPPORT OUR ELKS.**

VETERAN'S CORNER 62



Gary Stefanski, US Glenn, US Army

Port Huron Elks Lodge 343 providing information to our Veterans

A day of recognition. Friday, August 7th is Purple Heart Day. The Purple Heart was first created on August 7, 1782, by the Commander-In-Chief of the Continental Army, General George Washington. Then known as the Badge of Military Merit, it was awarded to three Revolutionary soldiers in 1783. It wasn't until 1932 that the metal was revived on the bicentennial anniversary of George Washington's birth. The Purple Heart is a U.S. military decoration awarded in the name of the President to those wounded or killed while serving on or after April 5, 1917. It is the oldest military award still given to U.S. military members.

August 7th is also a Friday, and that mean **RED** day, also known as **Red Shirt Friday**, is a campaign where participants wear red to Remember Everyone Deployed, showing support for active-duty military personnel and Veterans. **RED** Day is an observance dedicated to honoring all deployed service members, including active-duty personnel and Veterans, as well as recognizing the sacrifices of their families. The acronym RED stands

for Remember Everyone Deployed, emphasizing the importance of keeping deployed troops in mind and showing solidarity with them and their loved ones, it is an informal, voluntary campaign that encourages people to wear red clothing on Fridays to demonstrate support for our Veterans.

Upcoming Events: Our next few bi-monthly free "Coffee & Donut Days" from 8:30 am to 12:00 in the Veterans Wellness room at the VA will be on Wednesday, August 12th, Wednesday, October 14th and then on THURSDAY, December 10th. As an early reminder we will hold our annual Hot Dog Roast on Tuesday, November 10th from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm for Veterans, Active Military, First Responders & Spouses at the Yale VA, Veterans Clinic. These events are sponsored by Port Huron Elks Lodge 343, the Michigan Elks Association, ENVSC, and McLaren-Port Huron Yale VA. This is our way to say thank you, to our Veterans, active Military and first responders for their service. Please feel free to stop in, even without a scheduled appointment, we would enjoy your company.

On another note: The MiElks and Lodge 343 continue with our monthly (2) \$25.00 free gas gift card "give-a-way" program as we are now in our 4th year. For the month of June, Aaron Dibble, US Marines along with Gary Stefanski, US Glenn, US Army were both drawn for our monthly Marathon Gas Gift card drawing, congratulations! The Yale Veterans Clinic of McLaren/Port Huron Yale Community Health Center is located at 7470 Brockway Road, Yale, MI. 48097. To our Port Huron Elks Lodge 343 Veterans and newly initiated Veterans, your time served is very interesting to us, please consider sharing your Military Service story to Scott R. Harris DDGER, ENVSC VAVS Rep at scottharris55@comcast.net for a future Veterans Corner publication. The Yale Veterans Clinic of McLaren/Port Huron Yale Community Health Center is located at 7470 Brockway Road, Yale, MI. 48097.

National Veteran Volunteer of the Year Award

As the Elks Voluntary Service Representative at the Long Beach VA, Larry Nelson ensures that veterans have the support they need. For his service in combat in Vietnam, Nelson received a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Silver Star, and Combat Infantry Badge. He walked away from the experience with a newfound passion for serving fellow veterans.

From the everyday moments that make life more colorful to special events and holidays, Nelson, a Member of of Lake-wood-Bellflower, CA Lodge No. 888, is always planning something for his fellow veterans. He hosts monthly cookouts at the Blind Rehabilitation Center at the VA. He serves turkey dinners. He hosts a monthly Bingo game at the Community Living Center and always brings dough-

nuts. He's an advocate for Veterans Social Connection program, issuing invitations and joining in the meetings himself. He mentors veterans with PTSD.

Beach VA to be a friend and guide to all. That kind of lifelong commitment to being a dependable person that others can count on isn't always a flashy story. But it's one of the most important kinds of stories, of a person who gives so much of their time to solve problems, to brighten people's days, and to make clear that our veterans aren't forgotten.

For the everyday and the holidays, and the decades of commitment since, we honored Larry Nelson by presenting the Elks National Veteran Volunteer of the Year Award to him on Monday, July 6th. May his example be a beacon for us all.

85th Blood Drive getting close to 3000 gallon total

The Port Huron Elks Lodge 343 held our 85th blood drive, on Monday, June 15th as we continue to help us close the gap on blood shortages! (40) donors arrived to provide the "Gift of Life" as we surpassed our goal of (36), (7) donors were deferred, (31) whole blood pints, and (3) Power reds = 6 pints) were collected, for a total of (37) total units. Working together, the Port Huron Elks Lodge 343, and the American Red Cross we have collected over 2,908 units (pints) = over 363 gallons of blood since our 1st drive on January 7, 2013. We are well on our way to reaching our next goal of 3,000 pints (375 gallons). Our 86th drive was scheduled for Monday, July 20th.

Elks 343 Blood Drive Committee

Communication key to membership retention

One of the best ways to retain members is through effective communication. When members are well informed, they feel connected, valued, and more likely to participate in the activities and programs your organization has to offer.

Regular communication through newsletters, emails, social media, text messages, bulletin boards, and personal conversations keeps everyone up to date on upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, meetings, and accomplishments. Members who know what's happening are much less likely to feel disconnected or lose interest.

Communication should do more than announce dates and times. It should recognize volunteers, celebrate successes, welcome new members, and share the positive impact the organization is making in the community. These stories create pride and remind members why they joined in the first place.

Just as important, communication should be a two-way street. Encouraging members to ask questions, offer suggestions, and share ideas helps build trust and lets everyone know their opinions matter.

Organizations with strong communication create stronger relationships. Informed members become involved members, involved members become committed members, and committed members are the foundation of a thriving organization. Simply put, when people know what's going on, they're much more likely to stay engaged and remain proud members for years to come.



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Roger Zeller
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Stephen Zimmer
Jason & Amy Zimis
Bob & Sharon Zmolk

From Brandon Archibald, Golf Professional



As we settle into the heart of summer, we're looking forward to finishing the season strong at Port Huron Elks Lodge 343.

A sincere thank you to everyone who helped make our 52nd Men's Invitational another unforgettable

week. From our volunteers and committee members to Superintendent Mark Pringle and his grounds crew, our staff, and every member and guest who participated, your support continues to make this one of the premier amateur events in the region. The friendships made, memories shared, and traditions celebrated are what make this tournament so special.

While the Invitational may be behind us, there's still plenty of golf left to enjoy. The Ladies' Invitational, Senior Club Championship, Club Championship, Couples Events, and many more great events are still ahead.

Registration for all upcoming golf events is available on the Port Huron Elks Lodge 343 website. We encourage everyone to sign up early, as many events continue to fill quickly.

Whether you're competing for a championship, enjoying a casual round with friends, or simply spending an evening at the club, there's no better place to be than the golf course during the heart of summer.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the club as we finish another outstanding golf season together.

Brandon Archibald, PGA
Head Golf Professional

"It's a par . . ."

Once upon a time, a golfer we'll call Pete proudly announced he'd finally mastered the perfect golf swing.

On the first tee, he took a deep breath, swung with absolute confidence... and launched a divot farther than the ball.

His friend clapped politely. "Great distance." "On the ball?" Pete asked hopefully. "No," his friend replied. "On the chunk of fairway you just sent into orbit."

Determined to recover, Pete lined up his next shot. This time he hit the ball perfectly—straight into the golf cart, which somehow bounced it onto the green.

Pete raised his putter in triumph. "Just like I planned." His friend nodded. "Golf is the only sport where your best shot can be an accident... and everyone still writes it down as a par."

Expositor Sponsors, submit by mail or drop off at Lodge with \$20.00

Name(s)

If asterisk behind
your name,
\$20 is due!

Mail to: PH Elks Lodge
3292 Beach Rd.
Port Huron, MI 48060

☐ New ☐ Renewal

B.P.O.E. "Best People On Earth"

Ring of Honor option selected



The three proposed renderings for the Ring of Honor in the Social Quarters were displayed for member review, and we sincerely thank everyone who participated in the voting process.

Lodge members were invited to review each design and cast one vote between June 1 and June 30. Your participation and thoughtful feedback played an important role in helping guide this project.

The members have spoken and option 1 was the clear choice! Thank you to everyone who took the time to review the designs and submit your vote. We are excited to move forward with the selected rendering, which will become a meaningful commemorative tribute honoring our veterans and every branch of the United States military. As the project progresses and construction preparations begin, we will continue to share updates and announcements with the membership.

Thank you for helping shape the future of Port Huron Elks Lodge #343.

ELKS CHARITABLE GRANT FUND

37th Annual Metro District "GOLD KEY" GOLF OUTING

BENEFITING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

AUGUST 8, 2026

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 7:30 AM

SHOTGUN START 8:30 AM

4-PERSON SCRAMBLE

\$135.00 PER GOLFER

\$540.00 FOURSOME

LIMITED TO 132 GOLFERS
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DEADLINE ONLINE JULY 12, 2026

DEADLINE BY MAIL JULY 25, 2026

SIGN UP A 4 SOME

SIGN UP YOUR WAY!

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BE A SPONSOR

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Please make your sponsor's checks payable to:
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26635 Lorenz St., Madison Hgts, MI 48071

CLUB 343

YOUR TICKET TO FUN!

Now is the time to secure your ticket for the upcoming **Club 343** season (October 2026 - May 2027). We are planning so much fun for the monthly event with **new themes**, so many **prizes**, lots of **raffles** and **so much more!**

Our kickoff event is going to be filled with **SPOOKY FUN** on **OCTOBER 10TH!**

Stay tuned for more info coming soon!

Contact
Lynn Bowman (810) 531-0650
or Laura Nesbitt (810) 531-1531
to secure your ticket today!

PORT HURON ELKS LODGE 343

LODGE IMPROVEMENT GOLF OUTING

LUAU

AUGUST 29 11 AM SHOTGUN START

FOUR MAN SCRAMBLE

Callaway SCORING

\$55 TO PLAY

SIGN UP IN PRO-SHOP

PIG ROAST DINNER & TWO AND A HALF MEN

Fun, Fellowship & Support Our Lodge!

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 EXPOSITOR Editor Jan Wyllie

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 President

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Patricia Latimer - ENVSC Deputy Rep.

Jean Chapdelaine - MEA State Newsletter Editor

Elk of the Year
 Cody Verbeke
Officer of the Year
 Andrew Kroetsch
Citizen of the Year
 TBA
Sweetheart of Elksdom
 Kim Collins

**Outstanding Service-
 Commission**
 Fred Massad
Youth of the Year
 Rylee Thompson
**Outstanding Citizen
 of the Year**
 Daniel McVety

**Jim Goodrich Lifetime
 Achievement Award**
 Larry Allison
**Veteran Volunteers
 of the Year**
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Couple of the Year
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Especially for:

AUGUST 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Joke of the Month : An Elk walked into the Lodge carrying a ladder. Someone asked, "What's with the ladder?" The Elk smiled and said, "I heard the fellowship around here is on another level!"						1 Bar 11am-11pm Kitchen 12pm-9pm LADIES INVITATIONAL
2 Bar 11am-8pm Kitchen 12pm-6pm LADIES INVITATIONAL	3 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-8pm	4 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-10pm	5 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-10pm DIAMOND ART 3-5 & 6-8	6 Bar 11am-12am Kitchen 11am-10pm	7 Bar 11am-11pm Kitchen 12pm-9pm	8 Bar 11am-11pm Kitchen 12pm-9pm GOLD KEY Golf Outing
9 Bar 11am-8pm Kitchen 12pm-6pm	10 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-8pm LODGE MEETING Initiation- 6:30pm	11 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-10pm	12 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-10pm DIAMOND ART 3-5 & 6-8	13 Bar 11am-12am Kitchen 11am-10pm	14 Bar 11am-11pm Kitchen 12pm-9pm	15 Bar 11am-11pm Kitchen 12pm-9pm CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF
16 Bar 11am-8pm Kitchen 12pm-6pm CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF	17 Blood Drive-noon to 5:45 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-8pm BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING 6:30pm	18 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-10pm	19 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-10pm DIAMOND ART 3-5 & 6-8	20 Bar 11am-12am Kitchen 11am-10pm	21 Bar 11am-11pm Kitchen 12pm-9pm	22 Bar 11am-11pm Kitchen 12pm-9pm
23 Bar 11am-8pm Kitchen 12pm-6pm 30	24 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-8pm	25 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-10pm	26 Bar 11am-10pm Kitchen 12pm-10pm DIAMOND ART 3-5 & 6-8	27 Bar 11am-12am Kitchen 11am-10pm	28 Bar 11am-11pm Kitchen 12pm-9pm Couple, Club & Cocktails GOLF	29 Bar 11am-11pm Kitchen 12pm-9pm Lodge Improvement Golf Tourney & LUAU