



139 Years of Elkdom

# PORT HURON ELKS LODGE 343

# EXPOSITOR

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ISSUE NO. 357

DECEMBER 2026

Christmas  
Murder  
Mystery  
Dec. 13th  
details pg. 7

Memorial Service  
for our  
Dearly Departed Members  
Sunday, Dec. 7th  
2:00 pm

Jeffrey Hills Memorial  
Special Needs  
Adult Christmas Party  
Sunday, Dec. 14th  
12 noon - 3 pm  
Call Judy or Butch Hills  
810-300-1668

Yale VA  
Coffee &  
Donut Day  
Dec. 10th  
8:30 - noon

## Children's Christmas Party

Sunday,  
Dec. 21st  
11 am - 1 pm

Arts & Crafts  
Games  
Face Painting

Lunch  
includes  
Hot Dog  
Mac & Cheese  
Chips  
& Pop

See  
Santa  
&  
Jingles  
the Elf

Name That  
Tune  
Dec. 20th  
6-8 pm

Tom & Jerry  
Party  
Saturday,  
December 13th  
3 pm

Breakfast  
with Santa  
Dec. 6th  
11am-1pm  
details pg. 7

## CLUB 343

Saturday,  
December 13th - 5 pm  
Theme Red & Green  
Asking for donations  
for the annual PER  
Holiday Food Drive  
details pg. 2

## 81st BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, Dec. 15th  
12 noon - 5:45 pm





## Exalted Ruler Message

Hello brothers and sisters. Incredible to think we are in the Holiday Season already and a new year is just around the corner. Where I am writing this, it is already snowing and measurable. As November brings so much to be thankful for, December brings a chance to do great things and give back to those in need. Reach out to a loved one you may not have talked to in a while. I am sure they would appreciate the effort.

Elks National has partnered with the Salvation Army again this year for their annual Red Kettle Bell ringing. All Elks lodges are teaming up to ring the bell in their local area. December 6th is the contest date. Sign up for an hour or two online and be sure to let us know if you did the bell ringing so we can record the hours for our data collection sheet.

The PER Association will be collecting food again for their "baskets for the needy." Talk with a PER and find out what the needs are. Meats, canned goods, stuffing, peanut butter and jelly are the staples. Basket distribution will be on December 20th.

Remember our Annual Memorial Service will be held on December 7, 2025; to remember those members we lost this year. If you haven't attended one before, I encourage you to take a little time to attend this wonderful service.

Our State President has recently sent out a couple statewide letters to all Michigan lodges discussing membership and delinquencies and his goal to get delinquencies to zero members. Yes, it's a stretch goal, but one we need to work on. There are some lodges that have not even initiated one member yet this year. The PH Lodge 343 is actively busy with initiating new members, but we need to also work on our delinquencies. A list is available to review, just ask the membership office or a board member to take a look at it. If you were the sponsor of one of the delinquents, try and reach out to the member. I just heard of two members this week that thanked the member for calling and reminding them. Let's keep the energy up and get our delinquent members back. Membership is everyone's mission and it's our life blood — from the newest member to the most seasoned leader. Every initiation, every reinstatement, and every phone call to a fellow Elk matter. Thank you all for your dedication, your drive, and your passion for Elkdom. Stay engaged, stay connected, and keep spreading the word. "We're better together! United, we are unstoppable."

In closing, as we move deeper into holiday season, Tami and I want to wish you all Season Greetings for a blessed, safe and Joyous Holiday and continue to foster our cardinal principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity.

**REMEMBER YESTERDAY, ENJOY TODAY AND PLAN FOR TOMORROW.**

Fraternally Yours,  
*John C. Cuthbertson, Exalted Ruler*

# Welcome

## NEW MEMBERS . . .

Margaret A. Bennett Fearn sponsored by Tim Ainsworth  
Garrick Hunger sponsored by Don Allen  
Robert Rourke sponsored by Gerry Goodwin  
Dave Lapish (reenrollee) sponsored by Michael Halifax

## SPEEDY RECOVERY

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

PER Marv Ohrling  
John Stewart  
Karl Livingston  
Bob Kempf  
Larry Allison  
Tom Erd

PER Greg Shannon  
Greg Farley  
Theresa Conroy  
Justina Bartolotta  
PER Mark Howard  
Gary Osborn

## Jan Wyllie back as Expositor Editor



Off duty a couple years, but back as Expositor Editor, Jan Wyllie has returned. In case you didn't know, Jan was the second lady to join the Elks as a member over 31 years ago. She was an officer and served in each chair except Exalted Ruler. Jan was also the first woman Chairman of the Board of Trustees and also was General Manager for two years before retiring from the workforce. To the left is Jan's latest picture taken October 26th. Wave hello next time you see Jan at the Lodge.

## Club 343 is the Place to Be!

Saturday, December 13th, come celebrate the season by wearing green and red. CLUB 343 starts at 5 p.m. in the Social Quarters.

We are asking members to start helping the P.E.R. Association get ready for the "Holiday Basket Food Drive" this month by bringing the following food items to Club 343. Canned gravy, corn, beans, stuffing, cranberry sauce, applesauce, potatoes, peanut butter and jelly. Please give a monetary donation so they can go "purchase" the meat items this year. There will be a table in the social quarters to drop off your donation.

TO RESERVE A TABLE CALL or Text PENNY at 810-357-8322 or KIM at 810-343-7886.

Come celebrate the season and go home with more Brotherly Love than you came with!

Thank you for being a Club 343 ticket holder and for helping our Lodge help others.  
Club 343 Kim & Al Krug and  
Penny & Gary Osburn

## DDGER Visit well attended, good discussions

On October 27th, we welcomed Scott R Harris, DDGER, Paul Torres, District Grand Lodge Auditor and Garland Whitney Jr., District Esquire to review Lodge financial practices and membership status, accident and safety prevention reports and other Elkdom measurables. The meetings were well attended with good discussions. A big thank you to the officers and staff for all you did to help make these meetings go smoothly.





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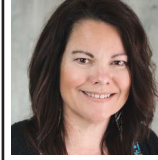
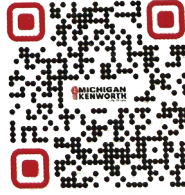


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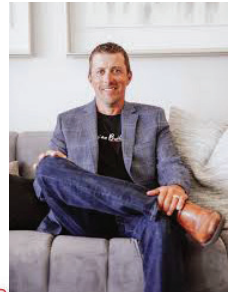
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# VETERAN'S CORNER 54



## Free Coffee & Donut Day at the Yale VA

The Free Coffee & Donut Day at the Yale VA is a bi-monthly event proudly hosted by the Port Huron Elks Lodge #343 in the Veterans Wellness Room (formerly the old pharmacy) in Yale, Michigan. Our setup runs from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, offering Veterans and their spouses a warm place to relax with a fresh cup of McDonald's coffee and delicious donuts from either Yale Bakery or Chef Shell's—alternating each time. Next one is Wednesday, December 10th from 8:30 am to noon.

This event provides Veterans a welcoming space to unwind after their appointments and share stories with fellow servicemembers.

- Pictured at top right: Ron Maes, U.S. Army Veteran, enjoying a cup of coffee.

- Pictured bottom right: Elk Member Scott R. Harris and Pablo Aguinaga, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran (and Capac buddies)

- Pictured at left: The massage chair generously donated by the Port Huron Elks Lodge #343 to the Yale Veterans Association



## Seventeen Vietnam Veterans Honored at Port Huron Elks Lodge 343



Left to Right: Presenter Gene Nethaway, Mike Sullivan, Marv Herbert, Barry Smith, Joe Zairko, Dan Croteau, PER Scott Perkins, Roger Capp, Dave Lashbrook, George Murdick, A.J. Foster, Julius Traub, Presenter Michelle Fickes, Andrew Wilson (GWOT-Global War on Terror), Event Host DDGER Scott R. Harris. Not pictured who received lapel pins: Bob Zmolk, Paul Wessel, William Gray, Bob Kempf, and Randy Johnston.

Seventeen Vietnam veterans were honored Monday, Nov. 3, at Port Huron Elks Lodge 343, where each received a 50-year Vietnam War Commemorative Lapel Pin presented by U.S. Pentagon representative and American Legion 8th District Commander Gene Nethaway.

The ceremony, part of the national United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, recognized 50 years since the end of the conflict and paid tribute to those who served. Michelle Fickes, Veterans Engagement Officer for the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, also presented each veteran with a Michigan Veterans Recognition Pin.

The event was organized by Scott R. Harris, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for Metro District 4200 and Veterans Committee Chair for Lodge 343. Though not a veteran himself, Harris said his commitment to honoring veterans stems from his stepfather and father-in-law, both World

War II and Korean War veterans. "My passion is to serve those who did serve," Harris said. "Through the Elks, I've been able to help ensure veterans receive the recognition they deserve."

Refreshments followed as families, fellow Elks, and community members joined in tribute. Harris emphasized the importance of having a Pentagon representative present, calling it a more meaningful way to honor their service.

"It's our solemn promise that so long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them," he said.

Harris continues to work with state and national Elks programs to provide resources and host events for veterans across Michigan, including at the McLaren-Port Huron Yale VA Clinic and the Michigan Veterans Home in Chesterfield. Later this week, he, Nethaway, and Fickes will present pins to 96 Vietnam veterans at the Chesterfield facility.

## Legacy Awards – \$4,000 Scholarships

The Elks Legacy Awards offer \$4,000 scholarships to children and grandchildren of Elks members.

Deadline: February 2, 2026, at 11:59 a.m. Pacific Time (NOON Pacific Time) Applications open September 1, 2025.

### Who Can Apply:

Child, grandchild, stepchild, step-grandchild, or legal ward of a living Elk.

Elk must have joined on or before April 1, 2023 (or be a charter member after that date) and paid dues through March 31, 2026. High school seniors only. Great-grandchildren not eligible. Apply online only—SATACT scores not required. If both parent and grandparent are Elks, list the parent's Lodge.

Students may apply for multiple ENF scholarships but can receive only one. Local and state awards are separate.

### Other Details:

Scholarships may be used at accredited U.S. schools, colleges, or universities. (Applicants from Panama, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines may use awards at schools in their home countries.)

Winners must complete three acts of service with an Elks Lodge during college.

### How to Apply:

Online applying began September 1, 2025

Visit [elks.org/scholars]

Questions? Email scholarship@elks.org

Winners announced in late April 2026

**Supporting ENF comes back to our Lodge!**

**DONATE TODAY!**



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## Club 343 reaches milestone and celebrates with exciting prizes

Congratulations! We did it! All 300 tickets to be a member of Club 343 are officially sold, marking a fantastic achievement for the Lodge and its members.

To celebrate this milestone, a special drawing was held, and the lucky winner was Seth Zeller. Congratulations, Seth! A special shout-out also goes to Elk spouse Marie Gorski, who sold her beautiful custom-made Halloween earrings during the meeting and generously donated all proceeds to the Lodge. Thank you, Marie, for your creativity and generosity! You can find more of Marie's handcrafted creations at the Annual Arts and Crafts Show on November 22nd, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lodge.

This month's Club 343 winners were Becky and Steve Branch, Deb Flanigan, Robert Zmolik, Ken Tibble, and Andrew Meikle. The Share of the Wealth prizes went to George Murdick, Roger Zeller, Scott Perkins, Heather Jex, and Henry Chmielewski, while door prizes were claimed by Shelly Murdick and Mike Stokan.

The Square Sheet winner was Edmund Smith, and Lou Flanigan took home the Elks gift certificate.

Altogether, an impressive \$1,455 in cash and prizes were awarded! Join us next month on December 13th, at 5 p.m. in the Social Quarters for more fun, friendship, and chance to win.

As always—Club 343 is the place to be! Kim & AL Krug along with Penny & Gary Osburn "Club 343 Committee"

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### Winter Closure: Dec 22 – Jan 7

To help maintain our Lodge's financial stability through the winter, Elks Lodge 343 will be closed December 22, 2025 to January 7, 2026, reopening January 8th.

We have plenty of great activities planned before and after the break for all ages, so come join the fun!

Your support matters most this time of year—stop in for dinner or a drink and help keep our Lodge strong through the winter months.

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ New

☐ Renewal

Mail to: **PH Elks Lodge**  
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## Message from Brandon Archibald, Golf Professional

Thank You, Elks Members, What a Season!

As the 2025 golf season comes to a close, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to each and every member of Port Huron Elks Lodge 343. Your energy, enthusiasm, and love for the game have made this year one to remember. From the early spring mornings to the late summer evenings, every round, event, and laugh shared out on the course helped make our Elks community truly special.

This season was filled with great tournaments, growing participation, and countless memories, from exciting finishes and first-time winners to the friendships strengthened both on and off the course. The pride and support you show for our golf program, the Golf Shop, and our entire staff do not go unnoticed. It's because of your commitment and positivity that Port Huron Elks continues to thrive and feel like home for so many.

As we look ahead to 2026, there's a lot to be excited about. We're already planning ways to make next season even better, with new events, fresh ideas, and continued improvements to the golf experience here at the Elks. Your feedback and involvement continue to shape what we do, and I couldn't be more grateful to lead a club filled with such dedicated and passionate members.

Enjoy the off-season, take some time to rest, and reflect on another great year of golf and camaraderie. On behalf of the entire staff, I wish you and your families a safe, happy, and relaxing holiday season.

We can't wait to see you all back at Port Huron Elks 343 in 2026!



## BREAKFAST WITH *Santa*

*Join us for a holly jolly morning of fun and festivities!*

### TICKET INCLUDES:

A full breakfast buffet, hot cocoa station, a (stuffed) polar bear adoption, letters to Santa station, a cookie decorating station, a picture with Santa opportunity, an ornament making station and so much more!

*Dec 6*  
11am - 1pm

**CHILDS TICKET: \$25**  
**ADULT TICKET: \$18**

\*tax not included

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## P.E.R. Association Christmas Baskets



Please help the  
P.E.R. Association with  
the gift of food baskets  
to needy area families  
at the holidays.



We are looking for Turkeys and Hams under 15 lbs, as well as non-perishable items (dry & canned goods). Suggested items: potatoes, corn, green beans, stuffing, canned gravy, mac & cheese, peanut butter and jelly, etc...

Please make donations before December 19th. Baskets will be delivered on Dec. 20th. Please contact the Secretary's Office (810) 982-8531 Ext. 2, Gary Nesbitt PER (810) 531-8373 or Gerry Goodwin PER (810) 434-4863 with questions.

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JOIN US FOR A

## CHRISTMAS MURDER MYSTERY

THE MOST WONDERFUL CRIME  
OF THE YEAR

**DATE:** DECEMBER 13TH 2025  
**TIME:** DOORS OPEN 5:30PM DINNER 6PM.  
**WHERE:** PORT HURON ELKS LODGE 343  
3292 BEACH RD, PORT HURON MI  
**COST:** \$45 ELK MEMBERS  
\$25 JUST THE SHOW  
\$55 NON- ELK MEMBERS  
\$30 JUST THE SHOW



CHOOSE YOUR UGLIEST CHRISTMAS  
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BETTER FOR OUR FESTIVE MYSTERY NIGHT!  
PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN FOR BEST DRESSED



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 Esteemed Loyal Knight.....Timothy J. Meikle  
 Esteemed Lecturing Knight...Andrew J. Kroetsch  
 Esquire.....Fred Massad  
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 Vice President...Gerald W. Goodwin, PER  
 Secretary/Treasurer...Steven M. Peters, PER

## GRAND LODGE & MEA STATE OFFICERS

Michael Bartolotta - MEA State President  
 Scott R. Harris - DDGER, ENVSC, Rep. &  
 State Resolutions Chairman  
 Gary A. Osburn - ENVSC Deputy Rep.  
 Penny J. Osburn - ENVSC Deputy Rep.  
 Monica G. Franks - ENVSC Deputy Rep.  
 Jean Chapdelaine - MEA State Newsletter Editor

**Elk of the Year**  
 Richard Niemietz  
**Officer of the Year**  
 Lisa Haremza  
**Outstanding Elks**  
**Members**  
 Donald W. Allen II  
 Joe Miller

**Citizen of the Year**  
 Carmella Robbins  
**Sweetheart of Elksdom**  
 Jo Eisen  
**Couple of the Year**  
 Alan & Kimberly Krug  
**Elks Youth Recognition**  
 Josh Burke

**Jim Goodrich Lifetime**  
**Achievement Award**  
 Shawn N. Eagle  
 Michael M. Duncan  
**Veteran Volunteer**  
**of the Year**  
 Monica Franks  
 Gary A. & Penny J. Osburn

Port Huron Elks Lodge 343  
 3292 Beach Road  
 Port Huron, MI 48060

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 Port Huron, MI

Especially for:

# DECEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> Bar Closed Kitchen Closed	<b>2</b> Bar Closed Kitchen Closed BLANKET MAKING	<b>3</b> Bar 3pm-10pm Kitchen Closed DIAMOND ART 3-5 & 6-8	<b>4</b> Bar 3pm-12am Kitchen 4pm-9pm MEN'S POOL LEAGUE	<b>5</b> Bar 3pm-11pm Kitchen 4pm-8pm	<b>6</b> Bar 12pm-11pm Kitchen 12pm-8pm BREAKFAST WITH SANTA 11am - 1 pm
<b>7</b> Bar 12 pm-8pm Kitchen Closed MEMORIAL SERVICE 2:00 pm	<b>8</b> Bar Closed Kitchen Closed LODGE MEETING Initiation - 7pm	<b>9</b> Bar Closed Kitchen Closed BLANKET MAKING	<b>10</b> YALE VA COFFEE & DONUT DAY 8:30 am - noon Bar 3pm-10pm Kitchen Closed DIAMOND ART 3-5 & 6-8	<b>11</b> Bar 3pm-12am Kitchen 4pm-9pm MEN'S POOL LEAGUE	<b>12</b> Bar 3pm-11pm Kitchen 4pm-8pm	<b>13</b> Bar 12pm-11pm Kitchen 12pm-8pm TOM & JERRY PARTY 3 pm CLUB 343 - 5 \pm CHRISTMAS MURDER MYSTERY doors open 5:30\ pm
<b>14</b> Bar 12 pm-8pm Kitchen Closed JEFFREY HILLS MEMORIAL SPECIAL NEEDS ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY 12 - 3 pm	<b>15</b> BLOOD DRIVE 12 pm - 5:45 pm Bar Closed Kitchen Closed BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 6:30pm	<b>16</b> Bar Closed Kitchen Closed BLANKET MAKING	<b>17</b> Bar 3pm-10pm Kitchen Closed DIAMOND ART 3-5 & 6-8	<b>18</b> Bar 3pm-12am Kitchen 4pm-9pm MEN'S POOL LEAGUE	<b>19</b> Bar 3pm-11pm Kitchen 4pm-8pm	<b>20</b> Bar 12pm-11pm Kitchen 12pm-8pm Name That Tune 6-8 pm
<b>21</b> First Day of Winter Bar 12 pm-8pm Kitchen Closed CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY 11 am-1 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Christmas Day	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve			

**WE ARE CLOSED FROM DEC. 22nd to Jan. 7th, 2026**

**WE ARE CLOSED**