



ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICERS 2017-2018

EXALTED RULER	Robert Fairhurst	732-471-8819
LEADING KNIGHT	Kevin Brittain	732-741-1076
LOYAL KNIGHT	Michael Parulis, Jr., PER	732-495-1502
LECTURING KNIGHT	Tom Cribbin	347-451-7913
LODGE SECRETARY	Edward Hahn, DD	732-670-1775
LODGE TREASURER	Mike Trieste, PDD	908-902-3447
TILER	Vinnie D'Acunzi	
ESQUIRE	Donald Desfosse, PEOY	732-788-4840
CHAPLAIN	Rich Jaeger	732-241-3753
INNER GUARD	Charlie Diehl	732-687-5769

TRUSTEES

ONE YEAR TRUSTEE Fred Dollinger 732-471-9966
TWO YEAR TRUSTEE. . . . Kevin McNulty 732-513-9269
THREE YEAR TRUSTEE . Ronald Steinberger 732-495-6145
FOUR YEAR TRUSTEE . . Albert Smith, PER 732-804-2712
FIVE YEAR TRUSTEE . . . Nick Giuriceo, PER 732-915-5321

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Rich Centanni, PEOY
732-495-0110

Members: Bob Foster, Kevin Brittain,
Vinnie D’Acunzi, Al Smith, PER
Nick Giuriceo, PER, Don Desfosse

Meet the Last Saturday of month at 12:00PM

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

ACCIDENT PREVENTION	Donald Desfosse, PEOY	732-788-4840
AMERICANISM	John Plumacher	732-500-6084
AUDITING	Nick Figaro	732-241-5131
BAR STEWARD	Michael Parulis, Sr., PEOY	
BLOOD BANK	John Plumacher	732-500-6084
BULLETIN	John DeSiato	732-829-3890
CONVENTION	Nick Figaro, VP	732-241-5131
DRUG AWARENESS	Albert Smith, PER	732-495-4633
ELKS MEMORIAL DAY	Daniel P. Maloney, PDD	732-787-1622
FLAG DAY	Daniel P. Maloney, PDD	732-915-9351
GOLF TOURNAMENT	Rich Centanni, PEOY	732-495-0110
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS	Don Desfosse, PEOY	732-788-4840
HALL BOOKINGS	Albert Smith, PER	732-495-4633
HOOP SHOOT	Charlie Diehl	732-671-0463
HOUSE	Rich Centanni, PEOY	732-495-0110
HOUSE & GROUNDS	Don Desfosse, PEOY	732-788-4840
INDOCTRINATION	W. Randolph Smith, PDD	732-787-1941
INVESTIGATION	Rich Jaeger	732-787-1622
JUSTICE	W. Randolph Smith, PDD	732-787-1941
LAPSATION	Edward Hahn, PDD	732-670-1775
LODGE ACTIVITIES	Donald Desfosse, PEOY	732-788-4840
LODGE PHOTOGRAPHER	Neil Grazebrook	
MEDIATOR	John Klepach, PER, PDD, GER	732-787-7712
MEMBERSHIP	Edward Hahn, PDD	732-670-1775
MOTORCYCLE	Rich Jaeger	732-787-1622
NATIONAL FOUNDATION	Nick Giuriceo, PER	732-915-5321
NATIONAL SERVICE	Mike Quilty	
OFFICERS TRAINING	Daniel P. Maloney, PDD	732-915-9351
PARADES	Edward Foster	732-747-7150
PUBLIC RELATIONS	Michael Dickie, PVP	
RITUAL	Edward Hahn, DD	732-671-0463
SATURDAY CLUB	Richard Bryk	732-546-0820
SCHOLARSHIP	Richard Niekrash	732-671-6347
SICKNESS & DISTRESS	Mark Kelly	732-787-0207
SOCCER SHOOT	Tom Cribbin	347-451-7913
SOCIAL & COMMUNITY WELFARE	Vinnie A'cunzi	
SPECIAL CHILDREN	Tom Cribbin	347-451-7913
TRACK DAY	Nick Figaro, VP	732-241-5131
YOUTH ACTIVITIES	Michael Parulis, Jr., PER	732-495-1502



ELK OF THE MONTH MARCH 2018

My Elk of the Month is Donnie Anderson.
Donnie's commitment to the Ritual Ceremony
showed in the support he provided
to our Team this past year.
Thank you Donnie!



**IF YOU HAVE A WHEELCHAIR
AND DON'T NEED IT
ANYMORE. PLEASE RETURN.**

Kitchen Open

**Friday, Saturday,
Sunday**

12:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Buffalo Chicken,
Chicken Tenders,
Cheesesteak,
Italian Hotdog,
Flounder, Bar Pie
and more**

SPECIAL CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

Hi All,

March is quickly upon us and February flew by. We had a successful Month with a solid turnout for our spaghetti dinner on February 7. Thank you to Don DesFossie and John Urbine and Rich Jaeger for assisting in the kitchen. As usual Kathy and Janet were great serving the meals. Our next Spaghetti dinner is March 7 and the special is Ravioli Parm, followed by our April 4 Dinner which will be Penne Vodka with grilled chicken. Our big event is closing near, Charity Ball. If you have not sent in your 50/50's, please do so as the Ball is Friday March 9 at 7 at the Grammercy at Lakeside. Please let me know if you are coming as I will be working on a seating chart. I hope to see you there. Our next event will be March 25th from 2-4 for our Easter Party... I believe the Easter bunny will be around.

Regards,

Tom Cribbin, SCC Chairman

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY
LODGE OPENS AT 12 NOON
CORNED BEEF AND
ENTERTAINMENT**



**Middletown Elks
Annual Charity Ball**

Friday, March 9th, 2018

Gramercy Hall

**Honoring Our Ambassador
Caleigh Brennan**

Cocktail Hour 7-8

Accolades & Dinner 8-12

\$75.00 Per Person

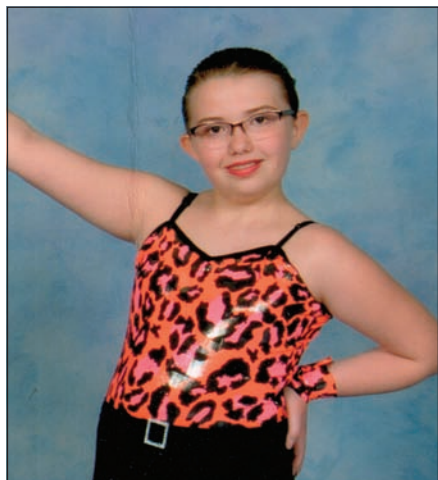
**For More Information Call
Tom Cribbin 347-451-7913**



MIDDLETOWN ELKS #2179

SPECIAL CHILD - CALEIGH BRENNAN

MARCH 9, 2018



Caleigh was born on June 18, 2005 after a normal pregnancy and via normal delivery. She came into this world weighing 7lbs 1oz and was a typical healthy happy baby and we were overjoyed with her arrival. At 11 months old she had her first ear infection and things were never the same again. For the next six months we spent our time flip flopping from pediatrician, hospitals and ENT's trying to get to the bottom of things. Once she got her first set of ear tubes at 14 months, things were looking up. She started walking and saying words.

As these stories go, a few months later, the words became fewer and fewer and less understandable. Her frustration with being unable to communicate began to manifest itself with aggression. Thinking this was all related to her ears, we went to see an ENT at CHOP. He said the words I will never forget, "It's not her ears. She needs to see a Neurodevelopmental Pediatrician." I had no idea what a Neurodevelopmental pediatrician even was. I spoke to the pediatrician and started the ball rolling. I was fortunate to get an appointment within two weeks. She was diagnosed with PDD-NOS. As a girl, and being as young as she was, the Neurodevelopmental did not want to rush to a diagnosis of Autism.

We started early intervention, she went to school as soon as she turned three, however, she was almost completely non-verbal, very aggressive, still in diapers, socially withdrawn, sleeping only three hours a day and on sensory overload all the time. We tried a few medications with mild success. Just before she turned four, we transitioned to Children's Specialized Hospital for a more comprehensive care and treatment plan for her developmental delays and sensory processing issues. It was then that she received the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Even though I knew that was a very real possibility, the diagnosis still shook me to my core. While it was overwhelming, I was grateful to have a more definitive answer and knew that now we could move forward with an appropriate care plan for her.

Medication played a big part in helping her overcome many of the obstacles. While medication will provide temporary relief of symptoms like aggression, there is no magic pill that will take away Autism. Medication afforded us the window of opportunity that allowed us to learn therapeutic interventions that have changed our lives. While I knew all along that something was off, it was still difficult to come to terms with the diagnosis for several years. We participated in all the recommended therapies, and at times several days a week.

However, it wasn't until after Superstorm Sandy that all the motions we were going through really sunk in. Caleigh was seven and as Union Beach residents, the experience was quite traumatic. We were rescued by the fire department from my sister's flooding minivan and lost just about everything in the storm. As we stayed at my dad's while the house was being cleaned out we hit a crucial breaking point. Her aggression was out of control and I was debating having her committed. She was a danger to herself and to her two younger sisters. That was our defining moment. It was then that I said to myself, 'I am only going through the motions and not truly following through with what I have learned through all of the therapies and I need to accept who she is and do my best to help her get through this.' Ever since then we have continued to move forward in a positive direction.

Caleigh was weaned off her medication and for the first time in her young life her personality came through. It was as though we were finally interacting with HER and not the diagnosis. In the five years since that moment Caleigh has grown and accomplished more than I ever thought she would be able to do. She is completely verbally communicative, in some mainstream classes, and participating in several extra-curricular activities. Now, if someone meets her for the first time, they usually can't even tell she is Autistic.

It has been a long road and we didn't do it alone. As a parent, I didn't have a choice when I was thrown into this realm. However, this has opened my eyes to a world filled with people who have hearts of gold and patience of Saints. It has also led me to people who listen to you when you are at your wits end without judging you, and people whose belief in you enables you to believe in yourself so that you can be the best parent you can be. Then there are the Angels who are there for the children: doctors, teachers, therapists, and those who volunteer to make life better for the kids by providing activities, events and sports accommodating for their participation.

Caleigh has obtained the rank of Brown Belt in Karate, she has been dancing (ballet, tap, jazz and hip hop) for the last three years, plays the clarinet in the school band, participates in Drama Club, and plays Buddy Ball Baseball. She is a fantastic artist, extremely talented at crochet and can crush all your hopes and dreams if you challenge her to a game of Just Dance!

With all that she does and can do, if you ask her, she will tell you that she is first and foremost a cheerleader, as she has been a Keyport Indian for the past seven years. Coach Patti Hunt started the Special Needs Team the year we signed up and we have been so grateful for this extended family since the first day. Those early years were rough, but seeing the smile on her face when she performs at competitions is life changing. There is nothing else she does where that pure joy exudes from her very soul.

It truly takes a village to raise a child, and it only takes a village with a bigger heart to raise a special needs child.



John Plumacher, Blood Bank Chairman

FUTURE SIGN-UPS: APRIL 8, 2018



Convention - Fran Corridon
Drug Awareness - Al Smith
Lodge Activities - Don Desfosse
National Foundation - Ed Hahn
Veterans - Mike Quilty
Parades - Ed Hahn
Youth Activities - Mike Parulis, Jr.

WARREN APEL
MARVIN ARMSTRONG
RANDY BRYK
ROBERT BURTON
MARK BYRNE
ANTHONY CAPUTO
RICHARD CASTLES
MICHAEL CORCORAN
ROBERT CORCORAN
CHRISTOPHER DOUGAN
TODD DYSON
ERIC GUNDERSON
THOMAS HAYDEN, JR.
MATTHEW HUGHES
RONALD JORGENSEN
ROBERT KELLY, SR.
ED KERNAN
LOUIS LASSEN
MARK MASCARI
MICHAEL MELFI
HAROLD MERTZ
BRIAN PALMER
EDWARD PRINCE
JAMES REGAN
JOHN REGINA
STEVEN SCARAMUTZ
JASON SCARFI
ROBERT SEE, JR.
PATRICK SHOPP
CORY SMITH
CHARLES SPEARS
ED SZYMANSKI
THOMAS TREMER
MICHAEL URBEALIS
WILLIAM VETSEY
ROBERT WILSON
ROBERT WYATT



May the world that they left become a better place in which to live and that our lodge be a haven of brotherly love, charity, justice and fidelity, because of their noble living and fine example. Grant them, O God, external rest, and be of comfort to their family and our family of Elks. Amen

**MY
CREATIVE
CANVAS**

SIP & SIGN PAINT PARTY
Join us for a fun night out!

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 | 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
CASH BAR | \$40 per painter (adults only)
Snacks will be provided.

HOPE is the
of the
soul

WOOD SIGN CLASS

**SANDY PAWS
AND
SALTY KISSES**

Spread your
Wings and
Fly

A LITTLE SINK
between the toes
TAKES AWAY YOUR WOES

We will provide step-by-step instruction to help you create your own 12" x 12" rustic wood sign. Customize as you wish. Four stencil design options available. All supplies provided.

Please arrive before 6:45 PM to check in.
Seating will be arranged at first come, first served basis.

Purchase your tickets before March 7th and note your design selection. Space is limited!

Contact Tara at 347-512-8724 or
taramirenda@msn.com for tickets

Location: Middletown Elks Lodge
251 Church Street | Belford, NJ 07718



Ladies Auxiliary Officers 2017-2018

President	Lisa Hahn	732-757-2981
1st V.P.	Tisa D'Ziadzio	732-471-1594
2nd V.P.	Tara Merenda	732-787-8753
Treasurer	Mary Bryk	732-280-9071
Recording Secretary	Debby Gerardi	201-978-7223
Corresponding Sec.	Janet Desfosse	732-788-4839
Chaplain	Cathy Grabau	732-739-2933

Executive Board

Ginger Smith	732-495-4693
Nancy Brandine	732-492-3893
Kay Woods	732-495-2953
Kathy Corridon	732-495-3689
Melissa Vanderzee	732-322-7369

COMMITTEE CHAIRLADIES

Auditor/Budget	Chris Marchetti	732-872-1189
Book	Cathy Grabau	732-739-2933
Bylaws	Chris Marchetti	732-872-1189
Calendar Tables	Jane Figaro	732-241-8231
Car Show	Ginger Smith	732-495-4693
Chairlady Raffle	Chris Marchetti	732-872-1189
Christmas Party	Kay Woods	732-495-4693
Christmas Party	Chris Marchetti	732-872-1189
Christmas Tree	Edna Bryk	732-787-7477
Christmas Tree	Nancy Brandine	732-492-3893
Christmas Tree	Kay Woods	732-495-2953
Convention Shirts	Kathy Corridon	732-495-3689
Dances	Tisa D'Ziadzio	732-471-1594
Dark Horse	Mary Bryk	732-280-9071
Gift Auction	Janet Desfosse	732-788-4839
Hospitality	Chris Marchetti	732-872-1189
Hospitality	Cathy Grabau	732-739-2933
Membership	Ginger Smith	732-495-4693
Past President Dinner	Kay Woods	732-495-2953
Phone Committee	Cathy Grabau	732-739-2933
Phone Committee	Dottie Nesfield	732-787-7732
Pins	Cathy Grabau	732-739-2933
Plaques	Cathy Grabau	732-739-2933
Sip and Paint (Painting)	Melissa Vanderzee	732-322-7369
Sip and Paint (Wine Glasses)	Tara Mirenda	732-787-8753
Steal Bingo	Edna Bryk	732-787-7477
Steal Bingo	Mary Bryk	732-280-9071
Sunshine	Chris Marchetti	732-872-1189
Tailgates	Ginger Smith	732-495-4693
Tailgates	Kathy Corridon	732-495-3689
Wednesday Winner's Raffle	Nancy Brandine	732-492-3893

Madame President's Message

Hello Ladies,

As my year slowly winds down I have begun to reflect on what the past year has meant to me. Last year at this time our Auxiliary was close to becoming extinct. But with the cast of new officers and the support of the Ladies Auxiliary and the Men of the Lodge we have begun to flourish again. It was not just one person but a lot of people who have put time and effort into making this a successful year. I learned this year to take all the help I could as President and learned to delegate more and be more open to change. Change is always hard but if you embrace it good things happen.

This isn't my last message as your new President Elect Tisa D'Ziadzio and her team of officers will be installed on April 7, 2018 at 6:00 PM. I will tell you that you are going to embark on an exciting year ahead. I look forward to seeing what the future holds for all of us as I have enjoyed the ride this year with this group of women and I am sure the best is yet to come.

The biggest function the Men of our Lodge run is the Charity Ball. This year's Charity Ball will be held at the Gramercy on Friday, March 9, 2018 at 7:00 PM. The cost of the affair is \$75.00 per person which includes a cocktail hour, dinner and dancing and an open bar. We honor the Poster Child for the upcoming Elks year that night. It truly is a special evening where you can give back. Hope to see you there.

Our last fundraiser is the Sip and Paint to be held on March 14, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the Lodge. The cost is \$40.00 and please contact Tara Mirenda for tickets by March 7, 2018. It is a lot of fun so come out and paint and enjoy time with friends.

I have decided to not have a Past President's luncheon as this is my second time as President, so I decided to do something different. The Men and Women are combining the Installations this year. On Installation Night I will present my Lady of the Year, Officer of the Year and my Chairman of the Year. I will give out my other awards on the night of my last meeting which is March 28, 2018. We will be moving the meeting to 7:00 PM so that I can hopefully have as many attend as possible. I will be providing finger food, some appetizers and some coffee and dessert that night. So please come out and enjoy the night with your fellow Auxiliary members as they receive the awards they deserve.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

Hope to see all of you at a meeting and a function. Please join us in making this year successful one for all of us.

Lisa Hahn, President



Each booster helps to offset printing and mailing costs of this monthly newsletter. Boosters are for one year, and payable in advance. Please note your name, and when it is due. Thank you.

Please check to see if your payment is due - those more than two months in arrears will be dropped. Thank you for your support.

251 Church St., Belford, NJ 07718

City _____

State _____ Zip _____



**My Spotlight Ladies for March is
Cathy Grabau.**

I have known Cathy for over 28 years and she puts the same time in effort in helping make this Auxiliary the best in the state with the same intensity and enthusiasm now as she did when I first met her. She is my go to person whenever I need a favor and will jump to help in at a moment's notice. Congratulations Cathy on a well deserved honor.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MARCH LADIES!

Please remit your dues for 2018-2019. \$15.00 If you have questions, please feel free to call me. 732-788-4839. Thank you, Janet Desfosse, Corresponding Secretary

Any Member Ill....or in the Hospital....Please
contact Chris at 732-872-1189 to receive flowers
or get well message...Thanks Chris



