

# The Antlergram



**FEBRUARY 2010**

**LODGE OFFICERS  
2009-2010**

**EXALTED RULER**  
Sandra J. Hirth

**ESTEEMED  
LEADING KNIGHT**  
David L. Denvir

**ESTEEMED  
LOYAL KNIGHT**  
Ross E. Parker

**ESTEEMED  
LECTURING KNIGHT**  
Michael Finkeldey

**SECRETARY**  
Frances L. Davidson

**TREASURER**  
John Beatty

**ESQUIRE**  
Vacant

**CHAPLAIN**  
Anthony Raucci

**INNER GUARD**  
Helen Laureti

**TILER**  
Michael Liappes

**ORGANIST**  
Robert Mansfield

**PRESIDING JUSTICE**  
David L. Denvir, Esq.

**Board of Trustees**

*One Year*  
Raymond Dobratz

*Two Year*  
Richard Sheldon, *chair*

*Three Year*  
James Scofield

*Four Year*  
Dennis Farone

*Five Year*  
Michael Charney

*The faults of our members  
we write upon the sand;  
their virtues upon the tab-  
lets of love and memory.*

## Message from your Exalted Ruler . . .

For those of you faithful readers who missed a January message from me due to a combined December/January issue, I will do my best to make amends! First I need to express the still-vibrant enthusiasm I experienced at the Special Olympics which I attended in November. A group of seven of us from the East District helped one-on-one with those learning the game. We got to know their names which made cheering them on so much more exciting. I clapped so much my hands still stung two days later! This will always stand out as one of the most rewarding experiences of my lifetime and I can't wait to return next year!

Many, many thanks go out to all who came in with donations for our holiday charities: First our November food drive brought in 111 pounds of food that was distributed to the food pantries in the churches in Old Saybrook and Westbrook/Clinton. Thanks to Dan and Barbara Adanti for delivering the many boxes we filled. It was well received and very badly needed. Second, the kids at The Children's Place in Warehouse Point woke up Christmas morning with an abundance of gifts from Santa. Thanks to Dick Daly for loading his "sleigh" and making it happen! And lastly, the drive for the veterans was overwhelming! Never have we seen such a turnout of gifts. The bin in the lobby was constantly filled and the day of the Members' Christmas Party we had to set up an 8-foot table to pile them on and that table was emptied three times during the course of the evening! We donated close to \$3,000 worth of items to the veterans in Rocky Hill and the homeless veterans through a local agency. Thanks to John Soehnlein for all his hard work in distributing these gifts.

The Members' Christmas Party was enjoyed by more members than attended in recent years. The food was superb, thanks to our general manager, David Ciastko. We (once again!) tried something new and had a DJ come in with karaoke which turned out to be an excellent choice! We have some pretty talented singers in our lodge! Most were solos but some full tables sang as groups! Christmas tunes were the theme of the evening but a wide genre of songs were sung! It was a most enjoyable event and very much in the spirit of Christmas!

Then came New Year's Eve—yet another "first"! This was certainly the "deal of the decade." Attendance went far beyond my wildest dreams! The room looked absolutely beautiful, the antipasto was fantastic and the dinner could give the Waldorf a run for their money! And just when you thought you couldn't eat another bite, here comes the cheesecake under a blanket of strawberries! Thanks to Gerry Papoosha who brought in poinsettias from his nursery for all the tables. Folks stayed until after 11 enjoying the last of 2009. It was, remarkably, a wonderful evening!

On January 17, we held our next new endeavor, a Sunday afternoon event—the dinner/comedy show, which again, was very well attended in spite of storm warnings and the Cowboys playing the Vikings, We enjoyed an excellent dinner and a terrific show. Members expressing their thanks for a great afternoon were asked how they would describe the show and the answer was "Awesome—totally AWESOME."

Coming up this month on February 6 is our Mardi Gras party. Last year this was a huge success and promises to be so again. Come in costume if you choose and perhaps you could win one of the many prizes! We had quite an assortment of costumed figures last year, including three "questionable" ones (you know who you are)!!

February 14 is Valentine's Day and what better way to show your love than to bring your sweetheart to our Valentine's Day Sweetheart Dinner-by-the-Sea. (We promise you'll be able to score many points this night!)

On February 21 we have another first—Irish Sunday! Member Roger Loiseau who specializes in playing and singing Irish music has volunteered to entertain us. Please come down and enjoy some corned beef and cabbage and perhaps you'd like to try some clog dancing! It proves to be a fun afternoon.

And yet another first, but this time by the 1784 Corporation—a Benefit Game Dinner. André Marcaurele and his 1784 committee have a very special game dinner planned. Due to lack of heat in the 1784 Corp. building, the benefit will be held in the main hall of the Lodge on Sunday, February 28. This sounds like a sell-out so get your tickets early!

Finally, the Buck-a-Book drive for the National Foundation continues. Stop down and visit our library. There's something there for *everyone!* Light a fire, grab a quilt (maybe even a box of chocolates?!) and hunker down with a good book. Enjoy the comforts of winter!—Sandy



### CONTACT US

Secretary's office . . . 860-399-9191 Ext. 1  
e-mail . . . . . frandav@juno.com  
Gen.Mgr./Banquets . . 860-399-9191 Ext. 2  
Fax . . . . . 860-399-3435  
Website . . . . . ct elks.org  
Exalted Ruler Sandy . . . . . 860-388-6957

## HOUSE COMMITTEE

John Sousa, *chairman*

Marianne Blackman	JoAnne Kegel	André Marcaurele
Dave Denvir	Jim Knudsen PER	Bill Mozzer
Ralph Hoover	Todd Koscinski	Ross Parker
Joan Hubbard	Bob Mancini	Ben Thompson

The House Committee meets the first Monday of each month at 6:30 P.M. All members are invited to attend

## MEMBERS OF THE YEAR

Officer of the Year: *Sandy Hirth*  
Elk of the Year: *Mike Pierpont*  
Irishwoman of the Year: *JoAnne Kelly*

## HOURS OF OPERATION

### LODGE

Sunday-Thursday: 11:00 A.M. - 11:00 P.M.  
Friday & Saturday: 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 A.M.

### OFFICE

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 10:30-5:00  
Thursdays: 10:30-6:30

Permittee: John Mancini, PER  
General Manager & Exec. Chef: David Ciastko  
Bookkeeper: Natalie Evans

## 1784 CORPORATION 2009-10 OFFICERS

André Marcaurele, *President*  
Steve Nelson, *Vice President*  
Darlene Graves, *Secretary*  
John Beatty, *Treasurer*  
Bill Fogarty, *Director*  
Dave Pollock, *Director*  
John Courtney, *Director*

The 1784 Corporation meets at 6:00 P.M. on the third Wednesday of each month at the 1784 Corporation building (winter months, meets in main lodge) All members are invited to attend

## Wise Words

*The more difficulties one has to encounter, the more significant and inspirational his life will be.*



## The Antlergram

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## ISSUE NO. 1-010

Antlergram Editor/Typographer: *Sandy Hirth*



## GOT THE POST-HOLIDAY BLUES? SNOW AND COLD GOT YOU DOWN? FEELING THE MID-WINTER DOLDRUMS? OR ARE YOU HEADING FOR THE ISLANDS AND SOME SUN AND FUN?

Pick up a book and escape into the world of make-believe  
You will need some flying and frying reading material!  
Our "winter" Buck-a-Book is now located at the bottom of the stairs leading to the beach bar.  
The donation container is attached to the rolling cart.  
Thank you for supporting the ENF



## PROPOSITIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following applications have been read on the floor, will be investigated on February 3 and will be balloted upon at the lodge meeting on February 9, inducted March 8 and initiated March 9, 2010.

John Barnhart, East Haddam, bank teller, *proposed by Thomas Sweeney*  
Beverly Bergeron, East Lyme, hair stylist, *proposed by Patricia Fairbank*  
John Chapman, Norwich, dir. retail oper, *transfer dimit from Westerly RI #678*  
Michael T. Fedus, Colchester, retired, *proposed by Dean H. Zanardi*  
Lois Glazer, Westbrook, therapist, *proposed by Dorothy Dabbs*  
Jessica Griffith, Clinton, hairdresser, *proposed by Ron Griffith*  
Linda Kinsella, Old Saybrook, nurse, *proposed by Judith Chace*  
Rita Lehto, Westbrook, nurse, *proposed by Richard J. Siedzik*  
Donna Macri, Westbrook. (none listed), *proposed by Helena Heath*  
Carmen V. Malave, Westbrook, retired, *proposed by Helena Heath*

The following applications have been read on the floor, will be investigated on March 3 and will be balloted upon at the lodge meeting on March 9.

Paul Crawford, Deep River, (none listed), *proposed by Dennis Farone*  
Amy Farone, Clinton, (none listed), *proposed by Dennis Farone*  
Alan Forster, Guilford, (none listed), *proposed by Dennis Farone*  
Shawna Holzer, Northford, (none listed), *proposed by Maryann Papa*

## Lodge of Sorrows

The clock of their days has stopped, the journey through eternity commenced. We wish them an enjoyable and safe voyage and shall recall their virtues when the dial of night strikes the hour of eleven

James P. Morris      James A. McCusker, Jr.  
Edward B. Riccio      Edward J. Giering

## Young at Heart

If you wish to sponsor a plate for the seniors in our area nursing homes, fill in the form below and mail to, or drop off, at the lodge office. We ask just \$5.00 for each name you wish to submit. To be sure we list it correctly, please remember to tell us if it is *In Memory of* or *In Honor of*.



Dottie Dabbs *in memory of Wayne and Joseph Dabbs*

## Young at Heart Christmas Gala

About 60 residents from local convalescent homes enjoyed a wonderful time at our Christmas Gala Luncheon, including a delicious dinner by Chef David, music by Tom Yourell and dancing and singing by all. Our volunteers were GRREEEAAT!! I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of Elks and friends who made this such a special occasion and distributed so much TLC.

My thanks to Exalted Ruler Sandy for her support and the following for giving their time to the success of this celebration: Charles Adams, Mary Kay Albert, Nancy Bottiglieri, Victoria Caroline, Fran Conkling, Jeanne Desmond, Madeline DeVellis, Joanne Kelly, Mary Beth Mackin, Maryann Papa, JoAnn Popikas, Peg Seely and Susan Spetrini.  
*Fran Davidson, secretary*

# FEBRUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 House Committee Meeting 6:30 Setback	2 <i>Pasta Night</i> 6:30	3 <b>BINGO (TEAM 2)</b> <u>Bistro</u> INVESTIGATION	4 Members' Social Nite 7:00 <b>STUFFED SHRIMP</b> LIMIT 74 PEOPLE	5 Serving TEAM 5 Happy Hour 4:30-6 Lounge Entertainment <b>WILSON KANE</b> <u>DINNER BY THE SEA</u>	6 <b>MARDI GRAS PARTY</b> 6:00-11:00 P.M. NO DINNER BY THE SEA
7	8 <i>Antlergram</i> DEADLINE INDOCTRINATION Setback	9 LODGE MEETING 7:30 <b>PER NIGHT</b> Nomination for Officers Initiation / Balloting	10 <b>BINGO (TEAM 3)</b> <u>Bistro</u>	11 Members' Social Nite 7:00 <b>STEAK</b>	12 Serving TEAM 1 Happy Hour 4:30-6 Lounge Entertainment <b>DAYTON RICH TRIO</b> <u>DINNER BY THE SEA</u>	13
14 SPECIAL VALENTINE'S SWEETHEART <u>DINNER BY THE SEA</u>	15 Emblem Club 7:00 Setback	16 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY B.P.O.E. 142 Years</b> <i>Pasta Night 6:30</i> Trustee Meeting 6:00	17 <b>BINGO (TEAM 4)</b> <u>Bistro</u> 1784 CORP. 6:00	18 Members' Social Nite 7:00 <b>CHICKEN PARMESAN</b> LIMIT 74 PEOPLE	19 Serving TEAM 2 Happy Hour 4:30-6 Lounge Entertainment <b>SEQUENCE</b> <u>DINNER BY THE SEA</u>	20
21 IRISH SUNDAY 2:00	22 Setback	23 LODGE MEETING 7:30 Election of Officers	24 <b>BINGO (TEAM 1)</b> <u>Bistro</u>	25 Members' Social Nite 7:00 <b>PRIME RIB</b>	26 Serving TEAM 3 Happy Hour 4:30-6 Lounge Entertainment <b>BOB GIANOTTI</b> <u>DINNER BY THE SEA</u>	27
28 BENEFIT GAME DINNER 1:00-6:00 MAIN HALL	<b>DUE TO LIMITED SPACE IN THE CAPTAIN'S LOUNGE MEMBERS DINNERS ON FEB. 4 and FEB. 18 WILL BE LIMITED TO THE FIRST 74 PEOPLE</b>				<b>LUNCHESES SERVED</b> MONDAY-FRIDAY 11:30-2:30 SATURDAY & SUNDAY 11:30-5:00 PUB MENU FRI. & SAT. 5:00-9:00 <b>MONDAY THRU FRIDAY LUNCH</b> <b>BE SURE TO ASK TO SEE THE VALUE LUNCH MENU</b>	
<b>YOU MUST BE 21 YEARS OF AGE TO ATTEND THURSDAY MEMBERS' SOCIAL NIGHT</b> GUESTS ARE LIMITED TO THREE PER MEMBER, INCLUDING SPOUSES RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. TABLES ARE ON A FIRST-COME—FIRST-SERVE BASIS						

**Valentine's Day  
Dinner-by-the-Sea**  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14  
6:00-9:00  
call early for reservations  
featuring  
**Bone-in Rib  
for Two**  
**\$29.95**

*Cornish Game Hens \$14.95*  
*Sesame Yellow Fin Tuna Skewers \$16.95*  
*Lobster & Shrimp Alfredo over Linguini \$18.95*  
plus more of your favorites

## MEMBERS' SOCIAL NIGHT

7:00 P.M. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Feb. 4 Host: Fran Davidson & Mike Finkeldey \$ 8.00  
 Feb. 11 Host: Ross Parker & Dave Denvir \$10.00  
 Feb. 18 Host: Helen & PER Remo Laureti \$ 8.00  
 Feb. 25 Host: Mike Liappes & Bob Mansfield \$12.00

IF YOU CANNOT HOST ON YOUR DESIGNATED NIGHT,  
PLEASE SWITCH WITH ANOTHER OFFICER OR PER

**IRISH SUNDAY**  
SUNDAY AFTERNOON  
FEBRUARY 21 \* 2:00-4:00

You don't have to be Irish to join us  
for Irish food and Irish songs

Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner  
serving starts at 2:00

Entertainment by member Roger Loiseau

Only \$10 per person—reservations needed

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS—6:00-9:00 P.M.

# DINNER-BY-THE-SEA

Weekly menus offering a variety of choices

FEATURING EVERY WEEK PRIME RIBS OF BEEF AU JUS

Dinners include Pasta, Salad, Baked Potato, Vegetable, Coffee/Tea, Dessert

Reservations are suggested

NOW OFFERING VALUE DINNERS STARTING FROM \$9.95



# BINGO

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Doors Open at 5:00

Games Begin at 7:00

EARLY BIRD—50/50s

**PROGRESSIVE**

**PULL TABS**

COMING SOON TO BINGO

B I N G O				
2	30	41	52	74
15	23	37	46	71
7	18	FREE SPACE	49	66
11	24	44	60	70
9	21	32	54	63

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

## Bistro

Choice of 2 entrées served from 5:30-7:00

Eat at Bar or in the Captain's Lounge

**\$5.00**

## Benefit Game Dinner

for

**The 1784 Corporation**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

1:00-6:00 P.M.

Main Hall in Lodge

TICKETS \$35

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

\$7.00 PER PERSON



## Pasta Nights

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

February 2 and 16—6:30 P.M.

Pasta, Meatballs, Sausage, Salad, Rolls, Dessert, Coffee/Soda



**MARDI GRAS**

## MASQUERADE PARTY

FEBRUARY 6, 6-11 P.M.

French Quarter Menu Available

PRIZES FOR BEST COSTUMES (OPTIONAL)

Entertainment by T-Ray

Reservations suggested for 8 or more

860-399-9191, ext.1

**\$10 P.P.**

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*Reprinted from the Grand Lodge Newsletter*

## FEWER HOMELESS VETERANS BUT STILL MUCH TO DO

*by Robert M. Hennings, Commission Director*

Over the last few years, efforts by community organizations such as the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and government agencies have reduced the number of homeless veterans, but there is still much more to do.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimates that there are over 130,000 veterans who are homeless on any given night, and in the course of a year, almost 280,000 veterans will experience homelessness. Who are these homeless veterans? They are male and female, young and old, and served their country in war and at peace. Almost half served in the Vietnam era. The majority of homeless veterans reside in major population centers, but they are found in suburban areas and rural communities as well.

Why are they homeless? Homelessness has a wide array of causes. Lost income due to job loss, reduced salaries or benefits, home foreclosures, and a shortage of affordable housing all contribute to the problem. Perhaps the chief cause of homelessness, however, is the mental condition of its victims.

In earlier conflicts, such veterans were sometimes diagnosed with “shell-shock”—an obvious and almost immediate reaction by some soldiers to combat. Symptoms of “shell-shock” included tiredness, lack of concentration, and headaches. Eventually, the men suffered mental breakdowns making them unfit for combat.

Today, these conditions are referred to as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders, or PTSD. PTSD may take months or years to reveal symptoms. Untreated, PTSD can lead to depression, inability to focus, and alcohol and drug abuse. This can cause job loss, domestic violence, homelessness, and even suicide. During the Vietnam era, very little, if anything, was known about Post Traumatic Stress Disorders. It is not surprising, therefore, that so many of our nation’s homeless are veterans of that period.

While the VA is now actively screening military personnel after discharge, there are hundreds of thousands of veterans who have never been screened.

It is essential to get these veterans whatever help they need, to get them back to being complete, productive citizens. They answered their country’s call in its time of need. It is our duty to help them in their own time of need.

What can you do?

- Determine the need in your community. Contact your mayor’s office or search state and community websites for homeless veterans programs and initiatives. These programs may need food, clothing, essentials and/or volunteers.
- Send a financial donation to your nearest homeless veteran provider if you are unable to participate in a program directly.

- Stand Downs. Many hospitals and community-based outpatient centers host “Stand Downs” for the homeless. “Stand Downs” give homeless veterans 1–3 days of safety and security where they can obtain food, shelter, clothing and a range of other types of assistance.
- Fundraisers to help homeless veterans—dinners, dances, walks, motorcycle rides are but a few ways to raise funds.

*reprinted from the Grand Lodge newsletter*

## POWER OF POSITIVE PUBLIC RELATIONS

*by Art E. Hutton, committee member*

Positive public relations creates a “feel good” feeling for members and promotes our Order with the image others see in our organization. Effort is needed to project a positive image, cultivate relationships with the media, gather information from lodge committees, compose press releases and capture good scenes on camera.

Positive public relations is in direct competition with permitting less positive images of our Order to exist. This is not a “no-effort, do-nothing, let-it-happen” approach. It requires action and initiative to disseminate information, engage the media and establish relationships. Only in that way can not-so-accurate perceptions be dispelled.

Public relations and member satisfaction are similar, both are directed at harmony. Consideration must be given to easily remediable activities within the lodge. This is not a matter of “covering up” the negative, but of consciously avoiding unnecessary incidents. We are in control of many of the causes.

**Only selling charity tickets in the lounge, as well as primarily announcing activity sign-up sheets and disseminating information on the lounge bulletin board, tends to project the image of a bar-centric organization that conducts its business there.**

Canceling announced events will, no matter the reason, be identified with lack of planning. Corrective measures should be conducted privately so as not to become general knowledge that creates negativity.

In all we do, we must be alert to potential negativity and wrong images. We must focus on positive upcoming lodge activities and new ideas for community service. There is simply no time for anything else, especially as it relates to public awareness.

Positive public relations can help identify quality candidates and increasing membership. A high probability exists that by examining growing lodges, states with increasing membership and new charters, there will be a direct correlation with positive public relations in action.

## BULLETIN BOARD

Mardi Gras Party  
February 6

PER Night—February 9

Valentine's Sweetheart  
Dinner-By-The-Sea  
February 14

Irish Sunday—February 21

Election of Officers  
February 23

1784 Benefit Game Dinner  
February 28

Annual Irish Night—March 11

Installation of Officers  
March 28

*Notices placed on the Bulletin Board are subject to change. See each month's Antlergram for details!*

Westbrook B.P.O.E. #1784

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Westbrook, CT 06498

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## The 1784 Fun Box

### IT HAPPENED THIS MONTH—FEBRUARY

- 399- Philosopher Socrates is sentenced to death
- 498- Pope Gelasius declares Feb. 14 St. Valentine's Day
- 1415- 1st written Valentine attributed to Charles, Duke of Orleans while imprisoned in the Tower of London
- 1690- 1st paper money issued in Massachusetts Colony
- 1693- College of William & Mary opens in Williamsburg
- 1751- 1st performing monkey in U.S. (NY City—admission 1¢)
- 1824- J.W. Goodrich introduces rubber galoshes to public
- 1861- Apache Chief Chochise arrested for raiding a ranch
- 1870- 1st motion picture shown in a theater in Philadelphia
- 1882- Circus owner P.T. Barnum buys Jumbo the elephant
- 1895- Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" premieres in St. Petersburg
- 1902- China forbids binding women's feet
- 1910- Boy Scouts of America incorporated (Chicago)
- 1926- Land at Broadway and Wall St. sells for \$7/sq. inch
- 1935- Board game "Monopoly" goes on sale
- 1943- Shoe rationing begins in U.S.
- 1958- Ted Williams signs with Red Sox for \$135,000
- 1959- Vince Lombardi signs 5-yr contract with Green Bay

### HOW INTELLIGENT ARE YOU??

Q: Why does the U.S. interstate highway system require that 1 mile in every 5 must be straight?

### LAST MONTH'S ANSWER

Q: In which country is Christmas Eve celebrated by eating fried chicken and strawberry shortcake?

A: Japan

## Winter Value Lunches

(available Monday–Friday 11:30–2:30)

Grilled Cheese Sandwich . . . \$2.95

Ham Salad Sandwich . . . \$2.95

Chicken Tender Sandwich . . . \$3.95

Tuna Salad Plate . . . \$3.95

Chicken Pot Pie . . . \$4.95

Beef Stew . . . \$3.95

1/2 Sandwich of chef's choice  
w/cup of Soup of the day  
\$3.95

Hot Open-faced Turkey . . . \$4.95  
with gravy, potato, stuffing