



# SOUTHWEST DISTRICT NEWS



The 867th meeting of the Southwest District of the Pennsylvania Elks State Association will be held at Norwin Lodge #2313 on Sunday, January 17, 2016. The delegates will meet at 2:30 PM. The Advisory Committee will meet at 1:30 PM.

### Hoop Shoot

The Southwest District Hoop Shoot will be held at Connellsville Junior High on Saturday, February 6, 2016. The starting time is 10:00 AM with registration beginning at 9:30 AM. The six winners will represent the District at State College on March 6, 2016.

Please send the registration cards ASAP to District Chairman Dave Pular, PO Box 153, Leisenring PA 15455. Please double check the birthdates **AS OF APRIL 1, 2016**. The 'Ben K Ortman PSP Traveling Trophy' will be presented to the Lodge team making the most baskets.



**2016**  
 SET AND PURSUE NEW GOALS  
 BE STRONGER, DO BETTER  
 ACHIEVE MORE INSPIRE OTHERS

Elks USA  
 MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
 FIND YOUR PASSION

RAULERS GER

**OFFICERS 2015 - 2016**

President.....	Aquila Hilling
Vice Pres.....	Garry Cox
Secretary.....	David Pular
Treasurer.....	Dawn Lynn

### Membership

Grand Lodge is calling on all of our good Exalted Rulers and Lodge Secretaries to seize the initiative to end 2015-16 with our first membership gain in 36 years.

Please display your leadership by scheduling as many initiations of quality Members as you can before the April 1 start of 2016-17.

New Member initiations take time and effort. You are in position to greatly strengthen our opportunity to grow membership, and your leadership can make the difference.

Great goals require great effort and strong leadership!

We made significant progress toward a national membership increase in 2014- 15, in which we reduced our rate of membership loss from 2.8 percent to 1.6 percent. We are strongly in the fight this year for an outright membership increase.

We are encouraged by the improvement in membership retention. Our new candidate totals have been on the rise, helped by our new recruitment initiatives.

We have spearheaded a strong and positive social media presence. Our new recruitment video – “Why We Join,” which can be shared electronically – is inspiring new Members to recruit friends and family into the Order.

More importantly is the ever increasing pride and enthusiasm felt throughout Elks Nation. Members are more optimistic and encouraged by our direction and future.

Let's punctuate that pride with our first membership gain since 1979-80!

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

January 17 .....	Norwin
March 20 .....	Scottdale
April 17 .....	Connellsville



- The **Southwest District Advisory Committee** will meet at 1:30 PM. District committee choices for 2016-2017 will be made at this time. Any members wishing to serve as a committee chairperson should notify a member of the Advisory Committee
- The **11 O'clock Toast contest** for Exalted Rulers and the **Flag Charge contest** for Leading Knights will be held at 1:00 PM prior to the District meeting. All Lodge ERs and Leading Knights should participate. Winners compete at the Convention.
- Sadly we report that long time District Veterans Chairman Bob Thomas of Norwin Lodge has passed away.
- Contributions to the **Home Service Fund** were received from Connellsville (\$2600) and Charle-roi (\$200) Lodges.
- Contributions to the **Legacy trust Fund** were received from Pittsburgh #11 (\$3000) and Charle-roi (\$200) Lodges.
- The District had a 2nd and a 3rd place at the **State Soccer Shoot**. Both were from Scottdale.
- The Winter issue of the **State Newspaper** can be viewed at: [http://www.thepaelk.us/The\\_Pennsylvania\\_Elk/Welcome.html](http://www.thepaelk.us/The_Pennsylvania_Elk/Welcome.html).

Pennsylvania Elks:  
[www.paelks.com](http://www.paelks.com)  
 Southwest District:  
[www.paelks.com/swdistrict.html](http://www.paelks.com/swdistrict.html)  
 Email: [sgtpepr10@hotmail.com](mailto:sgtpepr10@hotmail.com)