



**EDWARD C. DAWSON**  
**STATE PRESIDENT**

**LEONARD J. POLK, JR.**  
**GRAND EXALTED RULER**



**DANIEL WRIGHT**  
**STATE TREASURER**

**PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION**  
Improved, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World

**THOMAS PIPKINS**  
STATE SECRETARY  
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Greetings, Brothers,

Let me first take a moment to wish you and yours a belated Happy and Prosperous New Year and to welcome you to another year of Elkdom! Additionally, I pray that, with the grace of God, 2024 will bring good health and good fortune to all. May He smile upon us and make this a better year than 2023 was. I bring you greetings from the President of the Pennsylvania State Association, Brother Edward C. Dawson, who wishes you the same.

The 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Pennsylvania State Association will take place in Erie, PA, Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, May 21, 2024. Headquarters is the Courtyard by Marriott & Hilton Garden Inn, 2225 Downs Drive, Erie, PA 16509. The hotel phone number is (814) 868-9558 or you can register by clicking the hotel website.

The Joint Opening Ceremony will take place Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. 1st Vice Presidents, Brother Jeffery L. Wright and Daughter Bernice Walker, will preside. Attire for the Joint Opening Ceremony is WHITE. The Health Department and the Fire and Safety Department programs will take place along with the "Salute to Gospel".

As we begin a new year, we must first deal with business items that Lodges and Councils must address soon. Lodge and Council officers must complete the Tax Form information, which includes name, address, phone number and e-mail of Exalted Ruler and Financial Secretary. A copy of your Lodge Membership Roster should be included.

The cost of Pre-registration for the 2024 Convention is \$75.00 and \$85.00 for on-site registration. There is also a \$40.00 charge for Past State Presidents dues and fees. You can find a registration form on-line at the PA State Association website or from your Lodge Secretary. Brother's Registration badge serves as the event entry ticket for the Oratorical Contest, Beauty & Talent Contest, Civil Liberties Luncheon and Charity Ball. The Youth Department Talent Show will take place on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. The Oratorical Contest and the Beauty & Talent Department Contest will take place on Sunday. The King and Queen will be crowned at the State Ball. See the King Director, Bro. Paul Grant, for details. Please be reminded that you must purchase a seat or table from the Local Committee to be seated at the Ball.

Quarterly Taxes are due in the office of the State Secretary by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month in each quarter. The amount of annual Lodge taxes due is two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per member per Quarter or \$10.00. The amount due for annual Council taxes is seventy-five cents (\$.75) per member per Quarter or three dollars. Payment of Quarterly taxes for all four Quarters is encouraged, especially if taxes are paid to the Lodge or Council for all four Quarters. Forms are available from the Financial Secretary's office or on the website at: [pastateassociation.net](http://pastateassociation.net). The deadline for pre-registration is May 11, 2024. Lodges and P. E. R. Councils may send up to five (5) delegates to the Convention Complete the Credentials Form and submit it to the State Secretary by May 11, 2024.

The Achievement of Excellence Award Banquet will take place Friday, May 17, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. The J. Amos Harris and Abbie M. Johnson Awards will be presented. Please see the Banquet Chairperson, Daughter Marsha Gray, for additional info.

In recognition of outstanding service to the Order, the highest honor presented by the PA State Association, the Ebony-Diamond Award, will be presented to a Brother and Daughter, on Monday, May 20, 2024, at the Civil Liberties Luncheon. The Second Annual David J. Groves Award will also be presented to a deserving Brother at this time.

We should never neglect to honor those who have paid their dues to this organization and have gone from "labor to reward." Please submit to the State Secretary, by May 11, 2024, a current list of your Lodge Brothers deceased in the past year. These names will be read at the Joint Memorial Service, which will take place Sunday, May 19, 2024, during the Lodge of Sorrow, as we pause to pay tribute. Please govern yourself accordingly.

The Joint Collaring Ceremony will take place Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. Brothers and Daughters desiring to be brevetted with the honor of Past State President through a co-ed department must submit the following: Completed application, \$150.00 to the Brother State Secretary, letters of recommendation from his/her Lodge/Temple, letters of recommendation from his/her P.E.R. / P.D.R. Council and a declaration as to which co-ed department the candidate chooses to join under. The application is available on the PA State Association website. It can be mailed to applicants. All questions or concerns should be addressed to the President of the Past State Presidents.

Please note that all event times and details are subject to change.

Fraternally and humbly yours,

*Thomas Pipkins*  
Thomas Pipkins  
State Secretary

Attested By:  
*Edward C. Dawson*  
Edward C. Dawson  
State President