

# *Barry "Bear" Griffith*

## **Lockport Lodge #41**

Barry Griffith was born in Jamestown, New York and attended schools in Falconer, graduating from Falconer Central High School in 1973. After attending a myriad of schools, worldwide he graduated with a Bachelors degree from NY State Regents College.

Bear enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1973 and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2010. Serving 37 years in a combination of Active duty, Air Force Re-serves and Air National Guard, all fulltime except for a few years in the 1980s for college. Deployed world-wide in support of domestic and international contingency operations, foreign missions, and training scenarios.

He joined the Lockport, New York Elks Lodge #41 in 2007 and the night of his initiation he volunteered to become the Lodge Veteran's Chairman. He was elected Loyal Knight in 2008, Leading Knight in 2009, and became the Exalted Ruler in 2010. He attended the Grand Lodge Convention in Orlando, Florida in 2010.

At the local Lodge level, in addition to the aforementioned offices, he has also served as Membership Chairman, Indoctrination Chairman, Officer Training Chairman, Major Projects Chairman, and Camp Happiness Raffle Chairman. In 2009 he was selected as the Lodge's Officer of the Year.

Bear has also been very active in the affairs and leadership of the New York West District 6520 and it's coordinating committee. He has served as district Government Relations Chairman, District Major Projects Chairman, District Empire State Elks Chairman, and the District NYS Elks Public Relations Chairman. He also served as the Coordinating Committee Vice President, President and Trustee. In 2014 he was selected to serve as the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the West District of New York.

With the New York State Elks Association, before his present Presidency, he also served as the State National Veteran's Service Chairman and as the State Trustee representing the West District.

In addition to his activities with the Elks, Bear is also a member of The American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (Life Member), the Military Officer Association of America, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Loyal Order of the Moose, and All Saints Catholic Parish.

Bear met the Love of his life, Susan, in High School and they were married a year after graduation. Together they have traveled all around the globe and across America. They still enjoy traveling, both in the United States, and abroad. They have two Children Jennifer, married to Andre, and Angela, married to Sean. Their two grandchildren Kendra and Lucas are the joy of their lives.

Bear and Susan are humbled and excited to have the opportunity to serve as the State President and First Lady for the 2021-2022 New York State Elks Association year. They look forward to making new friends, learning more about local Lodge programs, seeing more of New York State, and sharing the message of their year...Elks, Now More Than Ever!