

The District Deputy, Grand Exalted Ruler for the Central District for 2024 to 20254 is PSP Sandi Anderson from Waterville Lodge #905.

Sandi was second of four children, born in Sidney, NY, where her Father and Uncle were charter members of Sidney Lodge #2175. Her father was an engineer at a plastics company and Sandi's first job was working with her dad at the auto body shop he ran on the side. By the time she was five she was taping and sanding cars for paint and in her teens she was doing all the body work and priming. When dad bought a service station, she continued with the body work and was getting experience on the mechanical side of auto mechanics when her family moved to Washington where she graduated from high school in Tacoma.

She was working as a Teller when she was introduced to her future husband, Dave. They married and held their reception back at the Sidney Lodge. Work changes took the family to Berkshire, NY. Sandi eventually receive a generous retirement from her NY company, and they packed up the kids and moved to Maine, finally landing in Winslow.

Sandi and Dave looked into several organizations, looking for something to catch their interest. Groups like *Harley Owners Group* and *United Bikers of Maine* and an area pool league were fun, and they met many nice people, but nothing really grabbed them. Some friends from out of state visited the couple. Being Elks the guests invited Sandi and Dave to accompany them for a visit to the Waterville Elks lodge. The couple liked what they found. Dave pursued membership, proposed by their out of state friends, and Sandi joined the lodge ladies' auxiliary. Sandi was recruited to help with the Waterville Lodge Bulletin and lodge PR, and she engaged with a few other activities. After only a few months with the lodge auxiliary Sandi knew she wanted to do more, and became a full Elks member.

Since becoming an Elk, Sandi hasn't taken much of a break. She's been a longstanding member of committees working several aspects of lodge Membership as well as in-house fundraising events. She has developed a passion for the Maine Childrens' Cancer Program, providing support to Maine's veterans community, and working with the lodge's many children's events and programs. Sandi ascended through the Waterville chairs, including twice as Chaplain, four times as Esquire, served as Chairman of the lodge House Committee for two years and chaired their PER Association for two years.

For the Maine Elks Association Sandi has served on a multitude of committees including New Lodge Development, Americanism, Memorial Service, and M CCP Owie Box. Sandi was Central District M CCP Chairman for the MEA and served as First Lady of the Maine Elks Association when husband Dave was President for fraternal year 2017-18. She's been recognized for unceasing energy by receiving several GER Certificates through her home lodge, and was MEA President Don Piper's *Elizabeth J. Sicard Spouse of the Year Award* recipient for 2016 and served as the President of the Maine Elks Association for the Fraternal Year 2023-24.