



Charity ★ Justice ★ Brotherly Love ★ Fidelity

The  
**ELKS**  
Call

Huntsville Elks Lodge #1648

**Newsletter**

May 2024

**Exalted Ruler's Message**

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As you know, April marks the beginning of our Elks new year and although we had some complications, we have moved on. The first thing I'd like to do as your new Exalted Ruler is thank the many people who volunteer their time, services, and support 1648 to make our Lodge a huge success.

I also want to personally thank Mike West for the job he did for us the last two years as our Exalted Ruler, and I'm looking forward to working with him and the other PER's.

April 23rd was a special day at Elks 1648! We installed our new incoming Officers for the 2024-2025 year, and said thank you to those who served us throughout the last year. The installation of new Officers was performed by District Deputy Mike Childress after the Lodge Meeting.

On April 7<sup>th</sup> we were lucky enough to have the District Deputy (DD) Meeting at our Lodge. It was a good meeting and I enjoyed seeing some people that I had not seen in a while.

The main thing the Elks must focus on will be New Members! This is the backbone of our organization, and we must have more Elks!

Filling in the Chairs this year are a couple of new Officers and one we all know. Help me welcome Leading Knight Stephen Grimes, Loyal Knight Kevin Butler, Lecturing Knight Wesley Knowles, Secretary Christy Johnson, Treasurer Nan Stuart, and 5-year Trustee Kathy Pierce. I believe as a Team we're ready to continue the success that the past leadership has given.

I encourage our new Members to take advantage of all our Lodge has to offer and support the many activities and community events that make our Lodge the best in Alabama. In closing, I'd like to remind everyone that our Lodge Meeting nights are the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month and look forward to seeing you there.

A reminder: if you have not paid your Lodge Dues, please do so. This helps our Membership.

Please be involved in volunteering. This supports our Lodge Activities and helps events to be successful. We will be having different activities and events scheduled.



**Patrick D. Mickle**

Exalted Ruler  
Huntsville Elks Lodge #1648



## Donations of Food/Necessities to Buckhorn High School & Morris Elementary

April 22, 2024



### Elks exist to serve others!

Special thanks to PER Mike West and Trustee Kathy Pierce for making this possible.



### Elks Load Up & Deliver Items

(l-r) Tom Pluth, Mike West, Tom Rathz

Elks purchased food and personal hygiene items for Morris Elementary and Buckhorn High School.

Rex Reynolds and Phillip Rigsby - Alabama State House of Representatives provided Grants totaling \$2,500.

These Grants extend our ability to provide for underserved students in our community!

*Thank you to all the Elks  
that donated for Tut Fann!*

## Elks Donations Delivered to Tut Fann Veterans

April 24, 2024



(l-r) Morgan Fuqua & Tavia Gay (Activities Director)

Photo: Tracy L Swayne

[Veterans Committee](#)



## Elks Serve Those Who Serve Us

April 4, 2024



**Thank You** to all the Elks that donated to make this possible.

**Thank You** PER Mike West & Trustee Kathy Pierce for organizing everything to make this happen!

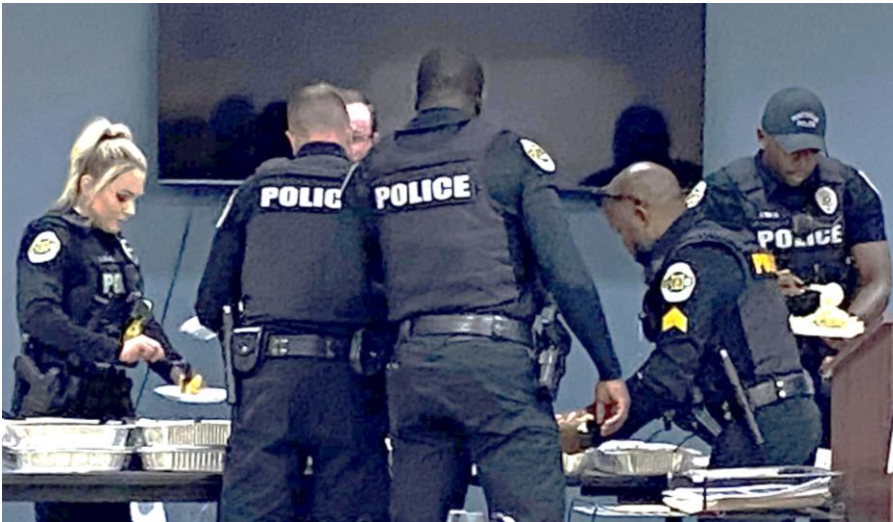
**Thank You** Elks Volunteers that served the Officers!



Over 200 Huntsville Police Patrol Officers from all three (3) Precincts and all three (3) shifts were served meals provided by Elks Lodge #1648!

The Officers were very appreciative and grateful for the Taco Bar from "Taco Mama" and all the Elks did for them.

This is from a Fundraiser started April 1, 2023 regarding the March 28, 2023 shooting where a police officer lost his life and another officer was critically wounded. Over \$3,000 was collected. ***This is all about serving those that serve us.***



(l-r): Elks Rob Terry, David Grimes, Kathy Pierce, Gwenda Hall, Tom Pluth



(l-r): Elk Brenda Buxton, 3 Officers  
Elk Sherry Ray O'Dell & an Officer



(l-r): 5 Officers, Elks Careen Smith, Janice West, Betty Mahone, Mike West & an Officer



# Dinner & Bingo at the Lodge with Tut Fann Veterans

April 22, 2024



**Bingo Buddy's** are needed **May 13<sup>th</sup>** when the Veterans will come to the Lodge again  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each Month**

**Thank You** to all the Elks that donated to make this possible.

*\* Donation Jar on the Bar*

**Thank You Bingo Buddy's**

– You make a difference in these Veterans lives!



## Thank You...

- Elks Bingo Regulars for moving to the Dining Room for space
- Max & Glenda Thompson for two (2) delicious desserts
- Robert Salinas for calling Bingo
- Karen Anderson & Cathy Kulas for keeping things on track
- April, James & Greg for making a special Veterans Menu
- Tom Pluth for the awesome sound system



*Jeffrey & Tracy Swayne  
Veterans Committee Co-Chairs*



**Everyone Working Together!**

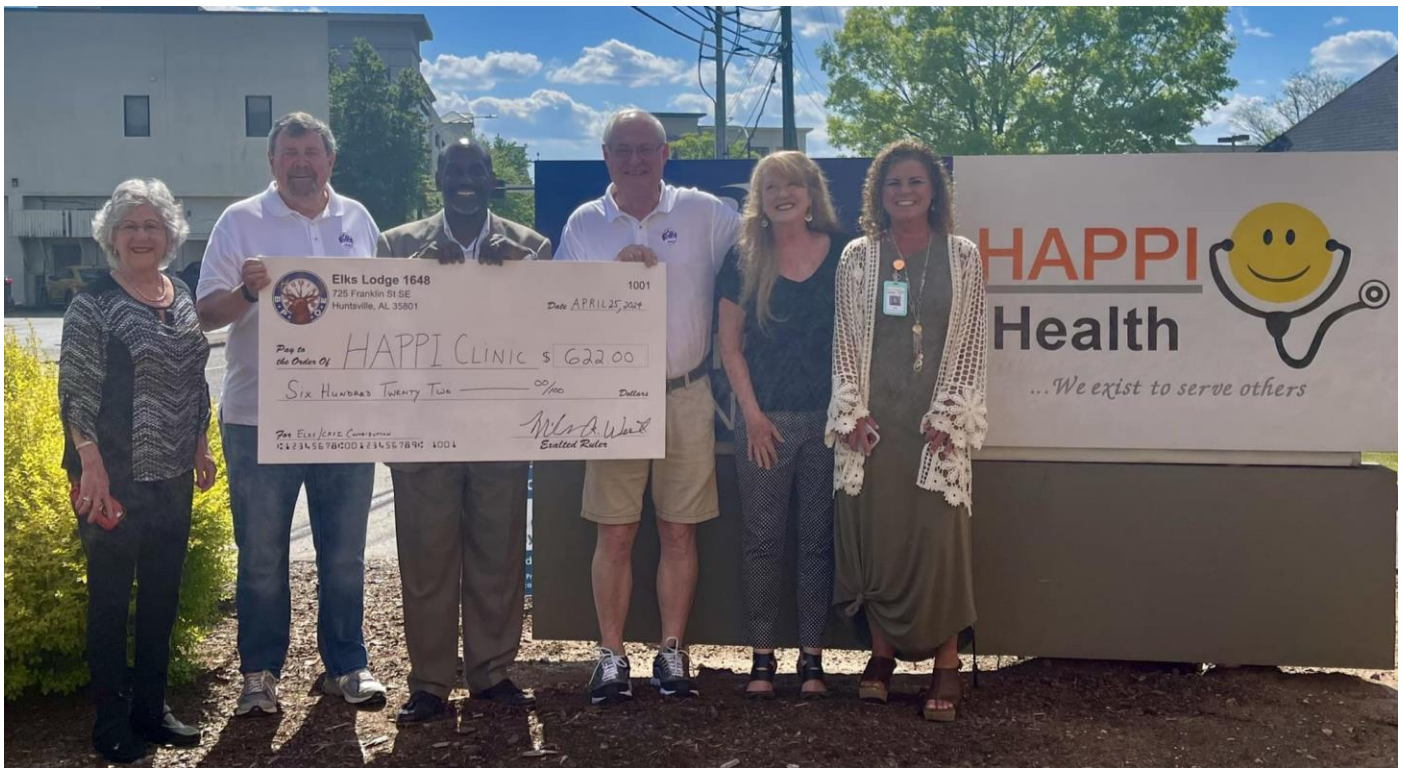
[Veterans Committee](#)



## Donation to HAPPI Health



The Elks/CASI Chili Cookoff on March 23, 2024 was a great success! Elks and guests had a wonderful time and raised money for **HAPPI Health**. A check for \$622.00 was presented - with CASI donating and the Elks Lodge matching funds.



*(l-r) Elk Lois Peck, PER Mike West, HAPPI Health CEO Raymond Andrews, Elks Tom Rathz & Jill Snyder, and HAPPI Finance & Marketing Coordinator Sandy Heddon*

[Activities Committee](#)



## Elks Lodge No. 1648 Facebook Page

Please **"Like"** and **"Follow"** the Huntsville Elks Lodge Facebook Page. Security measures are in place and updates to the page are made regularly.

Click the picture to the left, the underlined header, or [HERE](#) for the Huntsville Elks Facebook page.

## *We Remember Our Absent Members*

*Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken*

Hal Beach



91 years old  
Elk for 26 years

Robert Yarbrough, Jr.



78 years old  
Elk for 52 years



### What is an Elk

With more than 1.1 million members in more than 2,100 Lodges nationwide, the **Elks** is one of the largest and most active fraternal organizations in the United States; consisting of American Citizens of the United States and its Territories.



The **Order of the Elks** is a benevolent organization, not a social or business club. It is dedicated to service to our communities and our Country. The various phases of our work, whether it be with the fortunate or unfortunate youths, care of the needy, Veterans Services, promoting of Americanism, or other benevolent activities, offer you a wide choice from which you may choose your areas of interest.

The **Order of Elks** was formally organized on February 16, 1868, in the City of New York, NY. Its full corporate name is "**Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.**" Its declared purposes are to practice its four cardinal virtues, **Charity – Justice – Brotherly Love – and Fidelity**; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; and to cultivate good fellowship

# Congratulations

## Elected Elks Lodge Officers 2024-2025

**Exalted Ruler** ..... Patrick Mickle  
**Leading Knight** ..... Stephen Grimes  
**Loyal Knight** ..... Kevin Butler  
**Lecturing Knight** ..... Wesley Knowles  
**Secretary** ..... Christy Johnson  
**Treasurer** ..... Nan Stuart

### Trustees

**1-Year** ..... Jan Abbott  
**2-Year** ..... Phillip Towry  
**3-Year** ..... Mary Cannon  
**4-Year** ..... Louis Tumminello  
**5-Year** ..... Kathy Pierce

Contact Secretary Christy Johnson at: [Secretary.Elks1648@gmail.com](mailto:Secretary.Elks1648@gmail.com)

## Thank You for Your Service

### Elks Lodge Officers 2023-2024

**Exalted Ruler** ..... Mike A. West  
**Leading Knight** ..... Kathy Pierce  
**Loyal Knight** ..... Scott Stokes  
**Lecturing Knight** ..... Julie Schenck-Brown  
**Secretary** (Appointed) ..... Tracy L. Swayne  
**Treasurer** ..... Janice West

### Trustees

**1-Year** ..... Jay Lockridge  
**2-Year** ..... Jan Abbott  
**3-Year** ..... Phillip Towry  
**4-Year** ..... Mary Cannon  
**5-Year** ..... Louis Tumminello

**Chaplain** ..... Sally Culver  
**Esquire** ..... Peggy Rathz  
**Tiler** ..... Kevin Butler  
**Inner Guard** ..... Tom Rathz

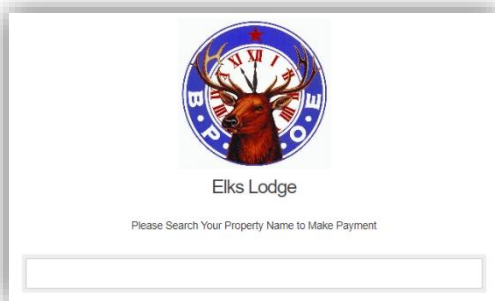
### Membership Dues Payments

◆ Pay Online ◆ Place in **Secretary's Box** ◆ Mail to PO Box 352, Huntsville AL 35804

### Pay Lodge Dues Online

<https://search.revopay.com/elkslodge>

- 2024-2025 Dues: \$123.00
- Additional Door Access Card: \$5.00
- Members must be current on Dues to enter the Lodge
- Delinquent Members may not be signed in as Guests



Click here for  
step-by-step  
instructions



**Mike Childress**  
BPOE District Deputy  
Grand Exalted Ruler  
[machldr@hotmail.com](mailto:machldr@hotmail.com)



**Elks.org Account**  
Click the link...

Lodge Locator **Register** Login

In upper right corner ↑



Contact **TBD**



## Committee Reports



### House Committee (HC): 2023-2024

**Greg Welzyn: Chairman;** Pat Edwards; Ed Limback;  
Janice West; Matthew Danner; David Grimes; Todd Lester

- Monthly inventory of the kitchen and bar were completed on schedule.
- Bi-annual cleaning of Club refrigeration equipment coils was completed.
- Lodge entry door locks were changed for new key cards on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The HVAC in the Lodge Dining Room was serviced recently.
- Health Department (HD) score after inspection is 89 down from 94. No violations with food handling. The HD found rust on a dry storage wire shelf, ice buildup in walk in freezer, and last score sheet had slipped on shelf in bar and not visible to members.
- The HC supported the Lodge with the District Deputy Meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Taxes and bills against the Club are paid.

The HC thanks those Members who volunteer with Club operations and special events.

Again, this year's House Committee has enjoyed serving our members with provision of such a wonderful Club. We appreciate everyone that pitches in to help!

Please support your upcoming 2024-2025 House Committee!



### Grants Committee: 2023-2024

**Scott Stokes: Chairman;** Barbara Stokes;  
Jerry Skonieczny; Anna Skonieczny

The Grants Committee submitted for the **Freedom Grant, Beacon Grant, Spotlight Grant, and Gratitude Grant** sponsored by the Elks National Foundation (ENF).

The Grants Committee received the \$1,000 Freedom Grant for 2024 to assist organizations sponsored by the Veterans Committee at Elks Lodge 1648 (the Elks National Foundation is no longer funding the \$3,000 Freedom Grant as of 2023).

We will have an update next month regarding the balance of the Grants.

Please consider donating to the  
[Elks National Foundation \(ENF\)](#)  
501(c)(3)



### Audit & Accounting Committee: 2023-2024

**Kathy Davis-Chesser: Chair;** Nan Stuart;  
Alan McClendon; Butch Buffaloe; Mike Wisner

The Committee previously recommended that the Elks Board interview new investment firms for the investment account currently held by Raymond James.

We are hopeful the Board will consider this a top priority as it is an important opportunity to increase the Lodge's investment income.



Doing nothing is very hard to do ... you never know when you're finished.

~ Leslie Nielsen



When proposing a New Member, please ensure the Application is complete, signed, and includes the \$50 fee

# Membership

## Membership Committee: 2023-2024

Kevin Butler: Chairman  
Cathy Kulas  
Drenda King  
Tracy L. Swayne  
Jeffrey Swayne  
Amanda Minton

The Membership Committee conducts Interviews (6:30 pm) and Orientation (7:30 pm) on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.

We enjoy getting to know the new candidates so please continue to propose candidates. Please remind candidates to check their email during the membership process.

We hope to see you all around the Lodge and invite any member to attend our meetings. All are welcome!

## Welcome Newest Elks

(Alphabetical - 1<sup>st</sup> name)

Abby White  
Alan Little  
Ashley Yates  
George Shanks  
Jill Snider  
John (Fred) White  
John Howell  
John Pitsinger  
Karen Fratesi  
Roger Gavitt  
Samuel Hall  
Sean Ballard  
Ted Miller  
Timothy Ratcliff  
Tyler Nabors  
Virginia (Gina) Shipley



## May Birthdays

Happy Birthday

01 Sam Citrano, Jr.; Jimka Vaughn  
02 Kathy Chesser  
04 Leslie Thornton  
05 Douglas R. Smith  
06 Alethia Birmingham  
07 George Shanks; Daniel Zolynsky  
08 Melissa Ryman  
10 Ted L. Bullard  
11 Nona Hopper  
12 Michael Boysen; Thomas Hartley



15 Christian Brix  
16 Terry Cagle; Robert Stinson; Mary Tweedy  
18 Amanda Minton; Gina Spencer  
20 David W. Burkett  
21 Jason Davis  
24 Joseph D. Henderson  
26 H. Marvin Byrom; Gilbert Jonathan Smith  
30 Gerald Keller  
31 Kenneth J. Adams; Scott Stokes;  
Stephen Lee Walker



**Fraternal/Activities Committee: 2023-2024**  
**Tom Rathz: Chairman;** Peg Rathz; Cathy Kulas;  
 Kyle Rone; Jeffrey & Tracy Swayne; Janice West;  
 Tom Pluth; Julie Schenck-Brown; Kevin Butler;  
 Drenda King; Carol Codori; Lois Peck; Melissa Ryman;  
 Kathy Davis-Chesser; Sallyanne Cos; Fran Morris

We will have a combined Kentucky Derby and Cinco de Mayo Day on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> – **Derby de Mayo** – with entertainment and a taco bar. Click [Here](#) for flyer.

The Elks **Flag Day** is coming up Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are always welcome. Watch for announcements.

The Elks Lodge, in association with [CASI](#) (Chili Appreciation Society International), each contributed \$311 (for a total of \$622) from the Chili Cookoff to the HAPPI organization. [See page 5.](#)

With the new administration coming in, I wish to thank the Committee for all of their hard work – and some that don't normally get recognized: April and James who coordinate the Lodge and Club along with the House Committee.



**Veterans Committee**  
**Jeffrey Swayne: Co-Chair**  
**Tracy L. Swayne: Co-Chair**  
 Kathy Davis-Chesser  
 Craig Brower  
 Julie Schenck-Brown  
 Amanda Minton

★ **Bingo Buddy's Needed May 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Every month - 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday.**

Help a Tut Fann Veteran at the Lodge. Take dinner order, bring drinks, help with Bingo daubers & be a **Buddy**.

**Contact Tracy @ (713) 824-9086**

**Donation Jar on the Bar.**  
**PLEASE consider donating!**

**Online Donation Option coming soon!**

★ **Snack Basket for Tut Fann ➤ Monthly**

*Thank You to everyone that donated for the delivery on 4/24/2024. [See page 2.](#)*



Look for the **Tut Fann Snack Basket** at the Lodge. Collections are delivered monthly for the residents to enjoy.

***If you like 'em – they'll like 'em***  
*...especially full-size candy bars*

★ **Are You Interested in Attending???**

Only 6 people have Signed-Up to date. We'd like to have at least 10 Sign-Up before we ask them to come:

- Director of Tut Fann speaking about rarely known Veteran Benefits for Veterans and their Spouse/Family?
- Tour of Tut Fann Veterans Home?
- Veterans Court Mentor speaking about the Program?

**If interested, please click [HERE](#) & sign-up**

★ **Tut Fann 3/26/2024 Thank You Letter for Easter Donations: Click [HERE](#)**







## Elks Golf Tournament June 22, 2024

**Elks Golf Tournament June 22, 2024**

You don't have to be a golfer to help!

**Golf Committee Meetings**  
Every Thursday at the Lodge at 6:00 pm.

THE  
**COLONIAL**  
*Golf Club*  
EST. 1966

### Elks Volunteer Sign-Up

**Volunteers Needed**

Your **Elks Lodge** Needs **YOU!**  
Please **Sign-Up** for your Area of Interest.

**Let's Help Our Community Together!**



- Open your phone camera
- Point at the QR code
- Click the link that pops up
- Sign-Up

<https://bit.ly/ElksAOI>  
case sensitive





This Sign-Up is also posted in the Lodge. Click [HERE](#) or above to Sign-Up

| Mon  | Tues   | Wed   | Thurs   | Fri   | Sat  | Sun                         |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>Please bring Snacks for</b><br><br><b>Tut Fann Veterans</b><br>• Delivered Monthly |  | Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: 5-9p<br>Texas Hold 'em<br>6:30p<br>   | Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: 5-8:30p<br>Activities Mtg: 6p<br>Golf Tourn Mtg: 6p<br>Trivia: 7p<br> | Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: 5-9p<br>   | Open: 2p<br>  | Open: 2p<br>Kitchen: Closed |
| Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: 4-8p<br>Bingo: 6p<br>  | Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: Closed<br>Membership Mtg: 6:30p<br>            | Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: 5-9p<br>Texas Hold 'em<br>6:30p<br>   | Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: 5-8:30p<br>Golf Tourn Mtg: 6p<br>Trivia: 7p<br>Chicken Buffet<br>     | Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: 5-9p<br>   | Open: 2p<br>Kitchen: Closed<br>Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza<br>   | Open: 2p<br>Kitchen: Closed |
| Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: 4-8p<br>Bingo: 6p<br>Tut Fann Veterans Dinner & Bingo<br>      | Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: Closed<br>Board Mtg: 6p<br>Lodge Mtg: 7p<br> | Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: 5-9p<br>Texas Hold 'em<br>6:30p<br> | Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: 5-8:30p<br>Golf Tourn Mtg: 6p<br>Trivia: 7p<br>                     | Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: 5-9p<br> | Open: 2p<br>Kitchen: Closed<br>Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza<br>   | Open: 2p<br>Kitchen: Closed |
| Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: 4-8p<br>Bingo: 6p<br>  | Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: Closed<br>Membership Mtg: 6:30p<br>          | Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: 5-9p<br>Texas Hold 'em<br>6:30p<br> | Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: 5-8:30p<br>Golf Tourn Mtg: 6p<br>Trivia: 7p<br>                     | Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: 5-9p<br> | Open: 12:30p<br>Kitchen: Closed<br>Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza<br>   | Open: 2p<br>Kitchen: Closed |
| Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: 4-8p<br>Bingo: 6p<br>  | Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: Closed<br>Board Mtg: 6p<br>Lodge Mtg: 7p<br> | Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: 5-9p<br>Texas Hold 'em<br>6:30p<br> | Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: 5-8:30p<br>Golf Tourn Mtg: 6p<br>Trivia: 7p<br>                     | Open: 4p<br>Kitchen: 5-9p<br> | <b>Bingo Buddy's Needed</b><br><b>May 13th @ 5:00 pm</b><br>Tut Fann Veterans<br>Dinner & Bingo<br>2nd Monday of each Month<br>With donations - Please see the Bar Jar<br>& consider giving to do this 1-time p/mo |                             |

\* Tips \*

- \* Every underline LINKS to a website or area "Inside" the Newsletter: [Back to top](#)
- \* Click the Newsletter Header & [here](#) for the BPOE #1648 Website with all Newsletters



\* Click & go to Elks Facebook page with lots of info & pics

By the Elks Lodge #1648 Newsletter Committee  
 Feedback: Email the Newsletter Chair at [TracyLSwayne@Swaywin.com](mailto:TracyLSwayne@Swaywin.com)  
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