

# Elks' Call Newsletter

## Exalted Ruler's Message

HUNTSVILLE ELKS  
#1648

Happy April, my fellow Elks!

April 2025

April brings a new Elks year. I would like to thank **Patrick Mickle** for his service this past year as our Exalted Ruler. His kind words and assistance during this transition. I am honored to serve alongside our new officers in our lodge. We have a great group of officers that are excited to help us grow in the upcoming year. On Saturday, March 29, we held officer installation. Having friends, family, and fellow Elks present made it especially memorable. This installation also marked a significant achievement that I am proud of for our Lodge. **We installed four women as elected officers: Janice West – Treasurer, Christy Johnson – Secretary, Sommer Woods – Loyal Knight, and Fran Morris – Lecturing Knight.** When the ceremony was completed on Saturday in marked 1648 as having a female majority on the Board of Directors.

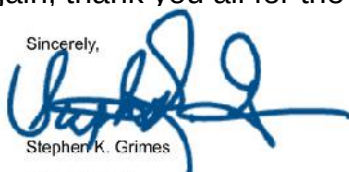
I would like to thank all of our **Past Exalted Rulers (PERs)** for reestablishing the **PER Committee**. This committee will provide stability and guidance to myself and all officers now and into the future. The experience of this group is vital to new officers in every position, especially to a first-time Exalted Ruler who is still learning what the job entails. I look forward to working with them as this year unfolds. I have no doubt that we will be leaning on them for advice.

You will notice some changes in the next couple of months when you are at the Lodge. Our **House Committee** will be replacing and upgrading our point-of-sale system, which handles all aspects of sales in the lounge area. This change should speed up service on busy nights, streamline payments, and, most especially, save us money on credit card processing. **John Worley and his team** hope to have this fully online in the next two months. After that, we will work to modernize our internet connection, TV service, and other services. Please watch these changes!

Currently, I am finalizing all standing committees. **All committees be set by April 15.** If you are interested in serving on any committee, please reach out. Our organization works when our members volunteer. It is the cornerstone of being an Elk. Please note that even if you can't serve full-time on a committee, you are still encouraged to attend meetings. Your input matters and will help make our Lodge better.

Once again, thank you all for the opportunity, and I look forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

  
Stephen K. Grimes  
Exalted Ruler



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Remember to pay your  
2025-2026 Elks Dues!

New cards will be required  
for entry starting April 15th!



## Elks Lodge #1648 2024-2025 Awards



★ 2024-2025 Officer of the Year: Kevin Bulter. You see him at most any activity at the lodge because he's leading it, organizing it, and participating in it. Kevin has led our new members step by step to initiation for the past three years. Congratulations Kevin!



★ ★ 2024-2025 Elk of the Year: Russ Grimes. You see him around the lodge, but what you don't know is that he spent many hours overseeing our kitchen renovations this past summer, when all major appliances were replaced, making the kitchen safer and more efficient. Your Elk of the Year is Russ Grimes!



★ 2024-2025 Citizen of the Year: Alabama Representative Rex Reynolds. You've seen this Elks member in the news as a Huntsville Police Officer, Chief of Police, Public Safety Director, Deputy Assistant to the Mayor, and now a State House Representative. Rex, thank you for all you do for our community.

★ There are many of you in our lodge that make our lodge work and succeed every day. We thank you for your support of Huntsville Elks Lodge #1648 and our community.







## Elks Lodge #1648 2025-2026 Officer Instillation March 29, 2025

Your Huntsville Elks Lodge No.1648 Alabama 2025-2026 Leadership Team led by Exalted Ruler Stephen Grimes was installed today by District Deputy Mike Childress and his team from Elks Lodge 655 Decatur AL. Special thanks to them and the wonderful reception by our new First Lady Victoria Grimes!!



### 2025-2026 Elected Officers

- ✓Exalted Ruler: Stephen Grimes
- ✓Leading Knight: Kevin Butler
- ✓Loyal Knight: Sommer Woods
- ✓Lecturing Knight: Fran May Morris
- ✓Secretary: Christy Johnson
- ✓Treasurer: Janice West
- ✓Five-Year Trustee: Mike West

### 2025-2026 Appointed Positions

- ✓Esquire: Kerri Spivak
- ✓Chaplin: Gina Spencer
- ✓Inner Guard: Melissa Ryman
- ✓Tiler: Chris Bulter



## JOIN THE CLUB

Automate your support of the Elks National Foundation with a monthly gift through your credit card or bank account. Becoming a Fidelity Club member is an easy and secure way to support your Foundation!

Scan the QR code or visit [secure.elks.org/FidelityClub](https://secure.elks.org/FidelityClub) to learn more.



Helping Elks Build Stronger Communities

### Join the Fidelity Club

The ENF Fidelity Club recognizes giving via automatic, regularly scheduled payments. Sustaining givers have a recurring monthly payment (minimum \$5) that is automatically debited from a bank account or charged to a credit card.

Monthly giving is safe, reliable, and allows the ENF to spend less time on administration and more time on our charitable mission. Visit [enf.elks.org/recurring](https://enf.elks.org/recurring) to enroll today.





**Dinner & Bingo at the Lodge with Tut Fann Veterans**  
**March 10, 2025**

**Bingo Buddy's are needed April 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**when the Veterans will come to the Lodge again. Please**  
**arrive at 5:00 pm.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each Month**



**Thank You Bingo Buddy's**  
*You make a difference!*

**Thank you**  
**Cathy Kulas for bringing dessert**  
**John Wallace for calling Bingo**  
**&**  
**Everyone for making it a great night!**



**BINGO is for Everyone – Elks, please join in!!!**  
**More players mean more fun!**



**Thank You for Donating Monthly to the...**

**Tut Fann Veterans Snack Basket**  
**Delivery is made in the last week of each month.**

**Elks are AWESOME!**



*Jeffrey & Tracy Swayne*  
*Veterans Committee Co-Chairs*



**We're excited to let you know that the Elks National Veterans Service Commission (ENVSC) Representative and Deputy (Jeffrey & Tracy Swayne) were notified that we received the Boost Grant for 2025. We are eagerly anticipating the arrival of the funds, which should be soon. This is a separate Grant from those submitted by the Lodge Grants Committee. These funds will be used exclusively for Tut Fann Veterans.**

# Elks Lodge #1648 Lodge Activities



Thank you!

Cathy Kulas, Kathy Davis-Chesser,  
Tom Rathz, Lisa Ratcliff, Paula  
Yerby, Betty Mahone, and Janice  
West for decorating the Lodge for  
Easter.

The bunnies in the dining room are  
just the cutest!



Remember to pay your  
2025-2026 Elks Dues! Pay  
on-line at [ELKS.org](http://ELKS.org) or pay  
by check at the Lodge.

New cards will be required  
to enter on April 15th!



## 2nd Annual Elks #1648 Chili Cookoff March 22, 2025

Huntsville Elks Lodge #1648  
Chili Cook-Off



The Huntsville Elks Lodge #1648 hosted its second annual Chili Cook-Off on March 22, 2025. This event was held in conjunction with the Chili Appreciation Society International (CASI). This annual event benefits our giving campaign to the Elks National Foundation Charities.

The professional and home cooks provided tasty treats of "Texas Red Chili" and home-style chili. Lodge members and the public were invited to taste and judge the submissions. The competition was tough but fun was had by all.



Kevin Butler  
First Place  
Judged Chili Category!



Kevin Bulter, Victoria Grimes,  
Wes Knowles, Rick Petitpas,  
Jill Snider



Wes Knowles  
First Place  
People's Choice Category!

### Home-Style Chili Secret Judge Category:

1st- Kevin Butler  
2nd- Jill Snider  
3rd- Wes Knowles

### Home-Style People's Choice Category:

1st- Wes Knowles  
2nd- Victoria Grimes  
3rd- Rick Petitpas



# Sunday Brunch



**Elks Lodge 1648**

**March 30, 2025**

**Sunday Brunch Sunday  
11 AM until 1:30 PM.  
Drink specials and more!**



## Huntsville Elks Lodge No.1648



**On March 28, 2025, Mike West (PER) and Tom Rathz delivered two truckloads of over 2,000 nutritional servings for their Hand-Up Food Pantry at Buckhorn High School.**

**This particular purchase was made possible by an anonymous member of the Huntsville Elks.**

**Huntsville Elks continues to foster partnerships with Madison County Schools in both nutritional and next-level educational opportunities.**



**Photo Left to Right: Huntsville Elks Tom Rathz, Buckhorn High School Counselor Dea Gordon, & Mike West (PER)**

# Lodge Activities



## April 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		April 1 House Committee Meeting @ 6:00 pm Membership Meeting @ 6:30 pm	April 2 Texas Hold'em Poker @ 6:00 pm	April 3 Trivia @ 7:00 pm	April 4 STEAK NIGHT	April 5
April 6 Bar Opens @ 2:00 pm	April 7 Bar Bingo @ 6:00 pm	April 8 Regular Board Meeting @ 6:00 pm Regular Lodge Meeting @ 7:00 pm	April 9 Texas Hold'em Poker @ 6:00 pm	April 10 Trivia @ 7:00 pm Chicken Buffett	April 11 STEAK NIGHT	April 12 LRC Tournament @ 5:30 pm
April 13 New Member Initiation 2:00 pm	April 14 Veteran's Buddy Bingo @ 5:00	April 15 House Committee Meeting @ 6:00 pm Membership Meeting @ 6:30 pm	April 16 Texas Hold'em Poker @ 6:00 pm	April 17 Trivia @ 7:00 pm	April 18 STEAK NIGHT	April 19
April 20 Bar Opens @ 2:00 pm	April 21 Bar Bingo @ 6:00 pm	April 22 Regular Board Meeting @ 6:00 pm Regular Lodge Meeting @ 7:00 pm	April 23 Texas Hold'em Poker @ 6:00 pm	April 24 Trivia @ 7:00 pm	April 25 STEAK NIGHT	April 26
April 27 Elks Sunday Brunch 11 am-1 pm	April 28 Bar Bingo @ 6:00 pm	April 29 No Meetings	April 30 Texas Hold'em Poker @ 6:00 pm			



### LRC Tournament!

**4/12/2025 @ 5:30 pm**

Grand prize winner will receive a \$500 cash prize.

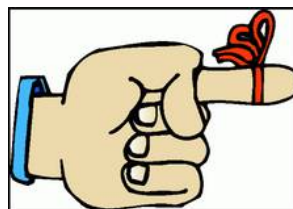
The buy-in for this tournament is \$15 cash.

Rebuys are available for \$10 cash.

BBQ sandwich plates will be available for \$5.00 each.

What is happening at the Lodge?  
Check us out on Facebook!

Public page: Huntsville Elks Lodge  
No. 1648 Alabama  
Members Only page: Elks Lodge  
1648- Members Only



**4/27/2025 11:00 am - 1:30 pm**

Join us for Brunch on Sunday!

Invite your family, friends, and new members!

### Reminder-

Regular Lodge Meetings:  
2nd & 4th Tuesday 7:00 pm

House Committee:  
1st & 3rd Tuesday 6:00 pm

Membership Committee:  
1st & 3rd Tuesday 6:30 pm





## Elks Lodge #1648 April Birthdays



4/1 Richard Sottolano  
 Joseph Vinson  
 4/2 Lee Gavitt  
 Micheal Stewart  
 4/3 Tad Britton  
 James Chandler  
 4/4 Stella Bell  
 Robert Terry  
 4/6 Joan McWilliams  
 4/7 Micheal Willett  
 4/10 Rebecca Harris  
 4/11 James Baumann  
 Paul Carter  
 Pamela Holden

4/12 Alana Sapp  
 4/14 Richard Morris  
 4/15 William King  
 4/17 Richard Flores  
 Linda Garrett  
 Kevin Vriesenge  
 4/18 David Grimes  
 Robert McCaleb  
 Ann Moore  
 4/18 Ricky Clark  
 Charles McClendon  
 Taylor VanKoughnett  
 4/22 Adam Dixon

4/25 Jennifer O'Brien  
 Bobby Shadrack  
 Stephen Wilt  
 4/26 Marshall Corlew  
 4/27 Jason Johson  
 4/28 Angie Ezell  
 William Frazier  
 4/29 Mary Jane Anderson  
 David Gregory



**Front: Left to Right- Leah Brambach, Michael LeVeque, Hope Strong, Cherie Holcomb, Paula Yerby, Kevin Carlisle**

**Back Left to Right: Phillip Campbell, Art Gaertner, Glen Yates  
Not pictured Holly Abernathy**



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



**Elks Membership**

### **Elks Lodge #1648 Officers 2025-2026**

<b>Exalted Ruler.....</b> Stephen Grimes	<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Chaplin.....</b> Gina Spencer
<b>Leading Knight.....</b> Kevin Butler	<b>1-Year.....</b> Todd Lester	<b>Esquire.....</b> Kerri Spivak
<b>Loyal Knight.....</b> Sommer Woods	<b>2-Year.....</b> Mary Cannon	<b>Inner Guard... Melisa Ryman</b>
<b>Lecturing Knight.....</b> Fran Morris	<b>3-Year.....</b> Louis Tumminello	<b>Tiler.....</b> Chris Bulter
<b>Secretary.....</b> Christy Johnson	<b>4-Year.....</b> Kathy Pierce	
<b>Treasurer.....</b> Janice West	<b>5-Year.....</b> Mike West	