



Charity ★ Justice ★ Brotherly Love ★ Fidelity

The  
**ELKS**  
Call

Huntsville Elks Lodge #1648

# Newsletter

June 2024

## Exalted Ruler's Message

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**We are The Elks!** That is the first thing that we must remember and practice. We have the opportunity to help out the people that need our help, and I am one that is proud to be a part of The Huntsville AL Elks Lodge #1648. It has been a pleasure to become the Exalted Ruler.

President Woodrow Wilson established a national Flag Day in 1916 by Presidential Proclamation. In 1949, President Harry Truman, himself an Elk, signed an act of Congress designating June 14 each year as Flag Day. We have an event scheduled at the Lodge to celebrate that day on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Please come and participate.

We are looking at a lot of different ways to try and increase our Membership. It is a well-known fact that more people being Members will help the Lodge out tremendously. We all need to be talking to our friends and neighbors about how great it is to have a nice, safe place to come and enjoy fellowship. We also need to explain to the prospects what we do to help each other as well. Please be a recruiter as well as a good ELKS Member.

We will be attending the Grand Lodge Convention in Austin Texas at the end of June and the first week of July. I am looking forward to meeting other Elks and learning how they have been doing things that might help out our Lodge.

We have some really good, fun things being planned for the near future with more music and events being set up for us all to enjoy. If you have any ideas for the Lodge or would like to officially state something, the best place to do so is in a Lodge Meeting on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Have a Safe and Wonderful Summer,



**Patrick D. Mickle**

Exalted Ruler  
Huntsville Elks Lodge #1648

## Lodge Non-Smoking

6/11/2024

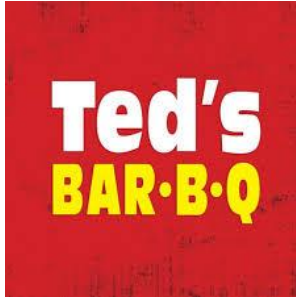


Read Policy [Here](#)



## Elks Delivered BBQ to Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home

May 17, 2024



(l-r) Tracy L. Swayne (Elks Veterans Committee Co-Chair) and Tavia Gay (Tut Fann Activities Director)

[Tut Fann](#) requested Elks to help the Veterans during [National Skilled Nursing Care Week](#) by providing BBQ for the residents.

### Special Thanks

Elk Karen and BJ Fratesi for making this happen.

Funds from the [ENVSC](#) enable the Huntsville Elks to serve the 150 residents at Tut Fann.



## Elks Donations Delivered to Tut Fann Veterans

May 27, 2024

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



Please donate Snacks for Tut Fann Veterans. The Snack Basket is by the Lodge Conference Room door...and the snacks are delivered monthly.



The Veterans are awarded full-size candy bars as game prizes (*hint hint*).

### Other suggestions:

Pork Rhinds; Beef Jerky; Chips; Crackers (Cheez-It, Peanut Butter/Cheese); Little Debbie Snacks; Rice Crispy Treats; and any kind of **Candy**.

[Veterans Committee](#)





## Elks Help Children Morris Elementary

May 15, 2024

Barbara Stokes from the Elks Grants Committee and her son Christopher Stokes delivered 60 bags of non-perishable food and hygienic supplies, tooth brushes, tooth paste and bath soap to [Morris Elementary](#).

The food will be taken home by the students to provide nutritious meals during the summer break when the schools do not provide breakfast and lunch. The 60 bags of food were packed by Jerry and Anna Skonieczny, and Scott and Barbara Stokes.



*(l-r) Tanya Smith and Leslie Maple - Morris Elementary School*

[Grants Committee](#)





## Dinner & Bingo at the Lodge with Tut Fann Veterans

May 13, 2024

**Bingo Buddy's** are needed **June 10<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.

\* Please see [Veterans Committee Report](#) for more information

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



### Thank You...

- Elks Bingo Regulars for moving to the Dining Room for space & providing Dessert
- Karen Anderson for calling Bingo
- 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*

[Veterans Committee](#)





## Derby de Mayo

May 4, 2024

The Kentucky Derby race mixed with Cinco de Mayo made for a great day at the Elks Lodge for **Derby de Mayo!**

Special Thanks to Tom Pluth for the delicious meat, cheese, taco shells, tortillas, etc.; Lois Peck for the produce; and Karen Fratesi for chips & salsa donated by **Rosie's Mexican Cantina**. It all came together to make a wonderful Taco Bar.

A **BIG** Thank You to Elk Benny Pitsinger for providing live music and donating back all of his tips! And thanks to all the volunteers that helped to make this a great event.

All proceeds go to the monthly **Veterans Dinner & Bingo at the Lodge!**



*Tom Pluth at the awesome Taco Bar*



*Benny Pitsinger provided great entertainment*





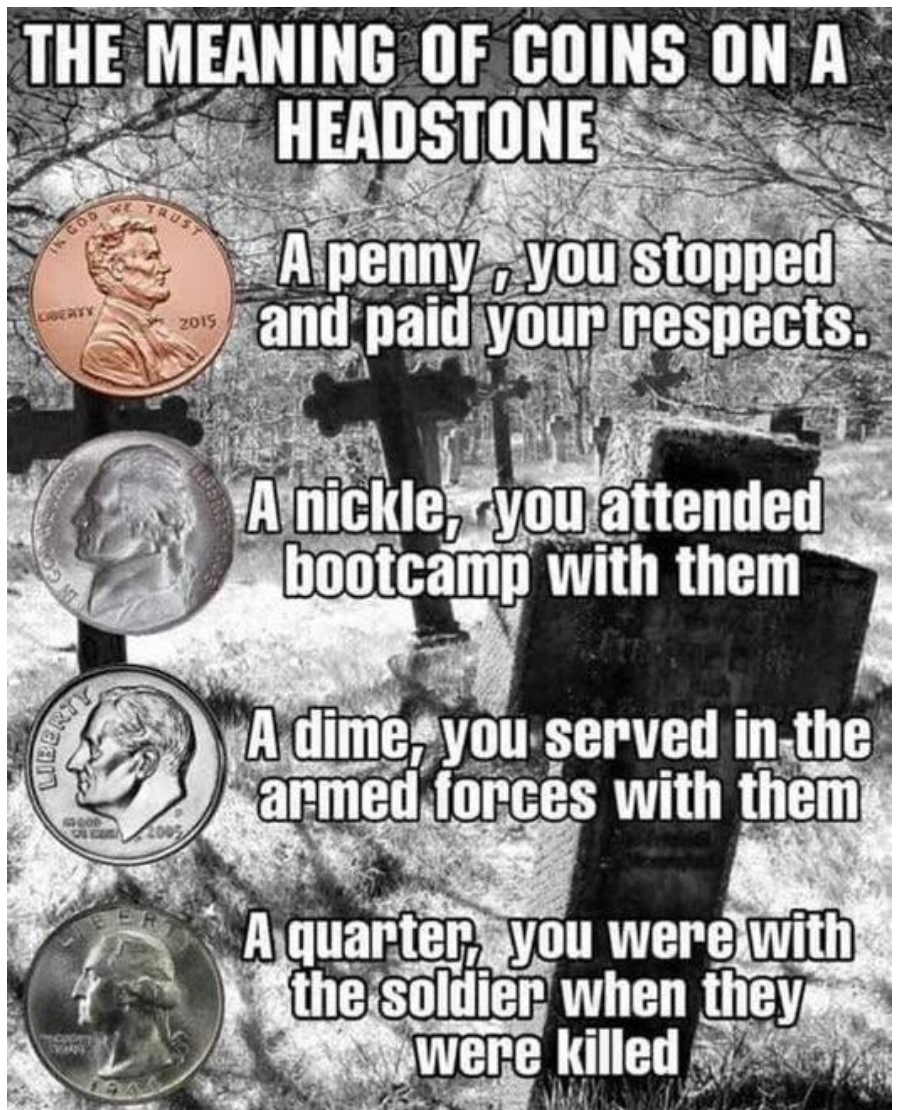
## *We Remember Our Absent Members*

*Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken*

David W. Burkett



Charles G. Curry





## 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.

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## 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

**Chaplain** ..... Sommer Woods  
**Esquire** ..... Davis Smallwood  
**Tiler** ..... Todd Lester  
**Inner Guard**... Taylor VanKoughnett

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

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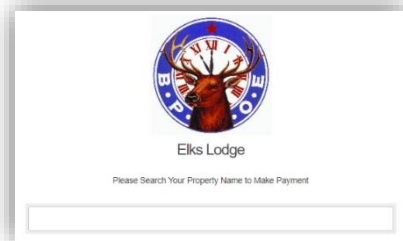
## Membership Dues Payments

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

- 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

## Pay Lodge Dues Online

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



Click here for  
step-by-step  
instructions



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



[Elks.org](https://www.elks.org) Account  
Click the link...

Lodge Locator Register Login

In upper right corner ↑



**SICKNESS  
&  
DISTRESS**

Contact  
Sommer Woods  
[SommerWoods6677@yahoo.com](mailto:SommerWoods6677@yahoo.com)



## Committee Reports



### House Committee (HC): 2024-2025

**Chair - John Worley;** Pat Edwards; Todd Lester;  
Pete Ferrell; Russ Grimes; Fran Morris; Doug Lumpkin

- Taxes and bills against the Club are paid.
- Monthly inventory of the kitchen and bar were completed on schedule.
- No repairs were made during May.
- The bi-weekly changing of cooking oil for the fryers was performed.
- The HC is supporting all Lodge Subcommittees to help them achieve the goal of making our Lodge the best in Alabama.
- The HC is identifying minor repairs needed and parts of the lounge for concentrated cleaning.  
***Volunteers will be needed in this effort.***
- The HC is supporting the Lodge with the Annual Elks Lodge #1648 Independence Day Fundraiser BBQ Butt Sale. Watch for flyers in the lounge for details.

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

Members with concerns or ideas regarding the Club may submit them in writing to any HC Member or appear at a...

### House Committee Meeting

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 5:30**

**STRONGER  
TOGETHER**



### Grants Committee: 2024-2025

**Co-Chairs - Scott Stokes & Mike West;**  
Jerry Skonieczny; Anna Skonieczny

The Grants Committee received notification of award for the **Freedom Grant** and **Beacon Grant** that will be used to benefit Veterans.

Also submitted was the **Spotlight Grant** and **Gratitude Grant** sponsored by the Elks National Foundation (ENF).

See [page 3](#) for donations to benefit the children at Morris Elementary.

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: 2024-2025

**Chair - Kathy Davis-Chesser;**  
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.



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

## Membership

### Membership Committee: 2024-2025

Chair - Kevin Butler; Cathy Kulas;  
Drenda King; Jeffrey Swayne;  
Amanda Minton

The Membership Committee conducts Interviews (6:30 pm) and Orientation (7:30 pm) on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



*Top: ER Mickle*

**Back row:** Johnny Bell; Victoria Grimes; Brandon Smith; Liles Burke; Jason Landers; Jason Dilocker

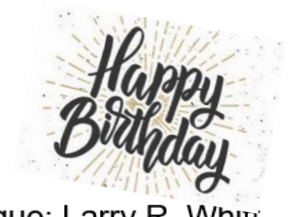
**Front row:** Jessie Faulkner; Lauren Kimbrel; Alana Sapp; Lindsay Sylvester

**Not pictured:** Keith Sharp and James Faulkner

## June Birthdays

01 Marc Goldmon; Mary D. Katterheinrich  
Ron Springsteen  
06 Robert Gamble; Gary Smith; Sommer Woods  
08 Matthew Danner  
09 Robert L. Benson; Deborah Citrano  
Tracy L. Swayne; William (Bill) Thomas  
10 Huff Sanders  
11 Peter E. Farrell; Elizabeth Rouse  
12 Christopher Bloom; F Stanley Fuller  
13 Cynthia Vandiver  
14 Christopher Neece

15 Lisa Ratcliff  
17 Len Johnson  
18 Gary Helton  
20 Howard Reed  
22 Fred A. Rodrigue; Larry R. White  
23 Rex B. Reynolds  
24 David Mark Holman  
25 Kenneth "Bubba" Ratcliff; Jeremy Smith  
29 Nicole Anderson  
30 Thomas Pluth





## Activities Committee: 2024-2025

Co-Chairs – Melissa Ryman; Kyle Rone;  
Fran Morris; Kevin Butler

### Get involved with the Activities Committee

The Activities Committee is dedicated to bringing a variety of events to our Members and guests. We meet every Sunday at 2 pm to plan and organize exciting activities.

If you have ideas for activities or would like to help make these events exciting for Members and attractive to potential Members...

**Please join us at 2 pm each Sunday!**

### Sneak peek of what's coming up...

- **Flag Day Celebration:** Join us on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p. for a patriotic celebration.
- **Luau Party:** Enjoy a festive luau with live band music and a pig roast in July.
- **Tap Takeover:** Experience a unique beer tasting event while listening to a solo musician.
- **Wine Down Wednesdays:** Relax and unwind with a glass of wine mid-week.
- **Line Dancing:** Get your boots ready for some fun line dancing sessions.



## Veterans Committee

Co-Chairs - Jeffrey Swayne and Tracy L. Swayne;  
Kathy Davis-Chesser; Craig Brower; Amanda Minton

### ★ Bingo Buddy's Needed June 10<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**

Thanks to the awesome work done by the Grants Committee, funds are now available to bring the Tut Fann Veterans to the Lodge for Dinner and Bingo Cards one time per month – 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday.

### ★ Snack Basket for Tut Fann ➤ Monthly

*Thank You to everyone that donated for the delivery on 5/27/2024. [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*

★ **Donation Jar on the Bar...** Please consider donating for the Veterans only Bingo round **PRIZE** each month!



**Online Donation Option coming soon!**







## 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.



### **Elks Volunteer Sign-Up**

Signing-Up doesn't add you on a Committee

It allows the Committee Chairs to reach you directly for volunteer opportunities

**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

**Elks USA**

State of Alabama  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
**FLOYD E. 'TUT' FANN  
STATE VETERANS HOME**  
"Proudly Serving America's Finest"

**SPACE CAMP**

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

Meeting Night  
★

# June 2024

Chicken Buffet  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
 <p><b>Please bring Snacks for Tut Fann Veterans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivered Monthly</li> </ul>				<div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>Bingo Buddy's Needed</b>  <b>June 10<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 pm</b>  <b>Tut Fann Veterans</b>  <b>Dinner &amp; Bingo</b>  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each Month</b></p> </div>		
<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: 4-8p</b> Bingo: 6p 	<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: Closed</b> <i>House Mtg: 5:30p</i> <i>Membership Mtg: 6:30p</i> 	<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: 5-9p</b> Texas Hold 'em 6:30p 	<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: 5-8:30p</b> <i>Golf Tour Mtg: 6p</i> Trivia: 7p  	<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: 5-9p</b> 	<b>Open: 2p</b> <b>Kitchen: Closed</b> Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza 	<b>Open: 2p</b> <b>Kitchen: Closed</b> <i>Activities Mtg: 2p</i> 
<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: 4-8p</b> Bingo: 6p <i>Tut Fann Veterans Dinner &amp; Bingo 5:00p</i> 	<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: Closed</b> <i>Board Mtg: 6p</i> <i>Lodge Mtg: 7p</i> <i>Lodge Non-Smoking</i>  	<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: 5-9p</b> Texas Hold 'em 6:30p 	<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: 5-8:30p</b> <i>Golf Tour Mtg: 6p</i> Trivia: 7p <i>Chicken Buffet</i>  	<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: 5-9p</b> <i>Official Flag Day</i>  	<b>Open: 2p</b> <b>Kitchen: Closed</b> 1:00 p. Elks Celebrate 	<b>Open: 2p</b> <b>Kitchen: Closed</b> <b>HAPPY FATHER'S DAY</b> <i>Activities Mtg: 2p</i> 
<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: 4-8p</b> Bingo: 6p 	<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: Closed</b> <i>House Mtg: 5:30p</i> <i>Membership Mtg: 6:30p</i> 	<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: 5-9p</b> Texas Hold 'em 6:30p 	<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: 5-8:30p</b> <i>Golf Tour Mtg: 6p</i> Trivia: 7p  	<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: 5-9p</b>  <i>Calcutta</i> 	<b>Open: 2p</b> <b>Kitchen: Closed</b> 	<b>Open: 2p</b> <b>Kitchen: Closed</b> <i>Activities Mtg: 2p</i> 
<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: 4-8p</b> Bingo: 6p 	<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: Closed</b> <i>Board Mtg: 6p</i> <i>Lodge Mtg: 7p</i> 	<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: 5-9p</b> Texas Hold 'em 6:30p 	<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: 5-8:30p</b> Trivia: 7p 	<b>Open: 4p</b> <b>Kitchen: 5-9p</b> 	<b>Open: 2p</b> <b>Kitchen: Closed</b> Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza 	<b>Open: 2p</b> <b>Kitchen: Closed</b> <i>Activities Mtg: 2p</i> 

**\* 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

Feedback: Email the Newsletter Chair at [TracyLSwayne@Swaywin.com](mailto:TracyLSwayne@Swaywin.com)

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