



Charity ★ Justice ★ Brotherly Love ★ Fidelity

Huntsville Elks Lodge #1648

Newsletter

April 2024

The **ELKS**
Call

Exalted Ruler's Message

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Hello, Fellow Elks,

Everyone should have received by USPS mail the Grand Lodge Executive Order dated March 19, 2024, from The Grand Exalted Ruler Randy Shook. As noted, there must be new nominations and elections for the Lodge's Exalted Ruler, Loyal Knight, Lecturing Knight, Secretary, and Treasurer. These elections will be held in strict compliance with the Laws of The Order.

Therefore, Nominations will be held at the next Lodge Meeting on Tuesday, April 9 at 7 pm. Elections will be held at the following Lodge Meeting on Tuesday, April 23, at 7 pm. Lodge Meeting procedures will mirror the past

meetings in strict compliance with the Laws of The Order. As I noted in our last Lodge Meeting, I will not seek the nomination for any office in this election. I serve as directed by Grand Exalted Ruler Randy Shook to lead our Lodge through this time.

On the evening of Tuesday, April 9 we have 20 new members being initiated into the Huntsville Elks Lodge. I encourage everyone to attend and listen to the oath of obligation given that evening. It would do us all well to remember our oath. The same oath and obligation that we all took to become Elks. Keeping faithful to that obligation is the basis of being an Elk, and our conduct should always reflect that same oath.

Huntsville Elks exist to serve others. We are a community service organization that has made a difference in hundreds of lives in just these two years alone. We aided underserved mothers and their newborns, along with elementary and high school students, with nutritional foods and necessities. We are sharing meals with Law Enforcement Officers who serve our communities and keep us safe. Serving our Military Veterans who served us in times of war, doing the hard things they had to do to protect America. That is who we are; we are The Elks!

We aren't just a private club you join for fun. Our club is one of the privileges we enjoy as members of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. Our service in Elks is not about money, power, or prestige; to believe so is misguided. We should never take the oath or community service obligation for granted. It takes us all to work together to have a successful Lodge for generations to come. I sincerely hope you will join me in binding us back as Brothers and Sisters of Huntsville Elks Lodge No. 1648. We are the Huntsville Elks!

Respectfully,

Mike A. West

Exalted Ruler

Huntsville Elks Lodge No.1648 (2022-2024)



Elks Deliver Easter Blessings to Tut Fann Residents



(l-r) Amanda Minton; Rob Pettey; and Tavia Gay (Tut Fann Activities Director)
Photo: Tracy L. Swayne



Top – back of hand
“Elks Thank Veterans”

Amanda Minton and Rob Pettey were *hopping* all over town to gather...and then deliver:

- 10 Hams
- 5 Turkeys
- 20 Cakes
- 750 Plastic Easter Eggs
- Candy to fill the Easter Eggs
- Also included: 24 pair of “**Elks Thank Veterans**” Leather Wheelchair Gloves from Elks National & snacks collected at the Lodge.



Elks Lodge No. 1648 Facebook Page

Please “**Like**” and “**Follow**” the Huntsville Elks Lodge Facebook Page. This is where you can find out what’s happening daily and see any schedule changes.

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



Huntsville Elks Lodge No.1648
Alabama



Elks Care— Elks Share



Huntsville, AL, Lodge used a \$2,000 ENF Spotlight Grant and nearly \$650 collected by a lodge fundraiser to fill 76 bags with infant care supplies and purchase an additional pickup truck load of diapers and other infant care supplies. The supplies were donated to HAPPI Health, a pediatric health care provider, to be given to needy young mothers. Pictured are (from left) HAPPI Health clients Adilene Guzman and Enrique Soto-Guzman, HAPPI Health staff members Al-Nisa Murray (at back), Cassandra Bolton, Barrett Seldon, and Wendy Gomez-Dimas, and ER Michael West.

Grant Received to Help Children



Leading Knight Kathy Pierce and ER Mike West submitted a Grant request to two Alabama State Representatives, Rex Reynolds and Phillip Rigsby, to fill the **Needs Pantry Closets** at [Buckhorn High School](#) and [Morris Elementary](#). The Alabama Representatives presented Pierce with a combined \$2,500.00 for [Huntsville Elks Lodge No.1648](#) to administer.

Huntsville Elks Lodge continues to fulfill the pledge to help the underserved students within these two community schools!

Grand Lodge ORDERED 2/28/2024 Officer Elections INVALID & VOID

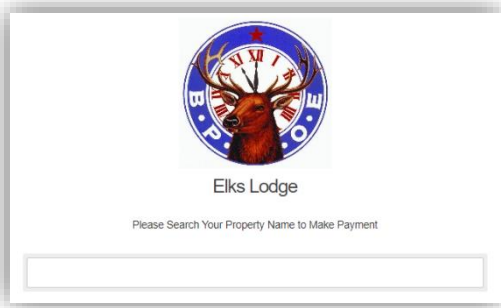
All Huntsville Elks Members were mailed information from Grand Lodge detailing the specifics of this action for the positions of: Exalted Ruler; Esteemed Loyal Knight; Esteemed Lecturing Knight; Secretary; and Treasurer. The election of all other positions, excluding those above, are declared valid.

Watch for New Election Details

Pay Lodge Dues Online

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

Lodge Door Locks will Change Soon




Mike Childress
BPOE District Deputy
Grand Exalted Ruler
machldr@hotmail.com



Elks.org Account
Click the link...

Lodge Locator **Register** Login

In upper right corner!



Contact **Sally Culver**
sallyculver@bellsouth.net
(256) 508-2834

Elks Lodge Officers 2023-2024: *Continuing until new elections*

Exalted Ruler	Mike West	Trustees	
Leading Knight	Kathy Pierce	1 Year	Jay Lockridge
Loyal Knight	Scott Stokes	2 Year	Jan Abbott
Lecturing Knight	Julie Schenck-Brown	3 Year	Phillip Towry
Secretary (Appointed)	Tracy L. Swayne	4 Year	Mary Cannon
Treasurer	Janice West	5 Year	Louis Tumminello
		Chaplain	Sally Culver
		Esquire	Peggy Rathz
		Tiler	Kevin Butler
		Inner Guard	Tom Rathz

Appointed Secretary: Secretary.Elks1648@gmail.com

- 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

Membership Dues Payments

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

GoodTimes

- Bingo ~ Mondays:** Thank you, Cathy Kulas for heading this up for Elks Members.
- Trivia ~ Thursdays:** Thank you, Stephen & Vicki Grimes. It takes hours to make this a fun, and *challenging* time for the Teams...complete with music to “help” or “throw ‘em off the trail” to the right answer.
- Karaoke ~ Fridays:** Thank you, Tom Pluth and Janice West for running the show.
-

Tut Fann Veterans Dinner & Bingo at the Lodge

March 4th & March 25th

Click each date above to see photos for that night.



...Cathy Kulas, Robert Salinas, Tom Pluth, Kyle Rone (for all the great sound equipment), and **ALL** the **Bingo Buddy's** that made it an **AWESOME** time for the **Tut Fann Veterans!**

They'll join us again on April 22nd
Bingo Buddy's, your help is needed at 5:00!



James - "Peanut" won the Veterans Game Prize on the 4th: Thank you Bubba & Jeffrey



Please see the [Veterans Committee Area](#) for help needed to continue to bring the Tut Fann Veterans to the Lodge one time per month.

Saint patrick's Party

March 16, 2024

Right after the Huntsville Parade

Fun - Food - Fellowship





March 23, 2024



THE CHILI COOK-OFF WAS A MAJOR SUCCESS! Based on the proceeds, we had 92 people in attendance - in addition to 18 CASI people and 16 cooks. The CASI people had plenty of room on the patio to do their thing and it was a beautiful day. The Open Chili also had 16 cooks and 71 Tasters with an abundance of food. Ten dollars for a beer and all the chili you could eat was well worth the price if you could sample 32 pots. This was such a wonderful event, we have plans to do this annually. CASI donated \$311 and our Lodge will also donate to our HAPPI charity.



For the **Open Chili Cookoff**, the winners were Wesley Knowles, 1st place winner for \$60 and a BIG medallion (*which he wanted everyone to kiss*); 2nd place winner for \$40 was Becca Peters; 3rd place winner for \$20 was Shelli Thompson.

Winners

CASI AL State

- 1st **Bill Heslop** (Pork)
Birmingham, AL
- 2nd **Jill Snider**
Huntsville, AL
- 3rd **Jeff Herring**
Huntsville, AL

CASI had their own rules and awards separate from the Open Cooks.

For it all, Kyle Rone had his awesome DJ setup in the Lodge with some great music.

Thanks to all that volunteered and especially the Activities Committee, led by Tom Rathz.



Open: Wesley Knowles

Thank you, DJ Kyle Rone for GREAT Music!

Committee Reports



House Committee (HC)

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

What a great year we have had in the Club this year! This House Committee has enjoyed supporting our Club staff and Club patrons!

Club updates include...

- Installation of a new US Flag by HC Ed Limback.
- New beverage glasses have been purchased and are in use.
- The lighted Birthday Board in the lounge was repaired by Dathan Morrell.
- The monthly bar and kitchen inventory has been completed on schedule.
- Bills and taxes against the Club are paid.
- The Club budget is completed and has been submitted to the Governing Board.
- A major repair was made to the sewer lines for the Lodge side restrooms.

The House Committee would like to thank those members who volunteer to help with the Club operations and the many special events. Recent examples include HC Chairman Greg Welzyn helping in the kitchen and bar, Tom Pluth washing dishes, HC Todd Lester, Dathan Morrell, and Steve Walker performing barback duties for Saturday's St. Patrick's Day Party.

Again, the House Committee would like to thank all those who pitch in and help during the year.

Members with concerns or ideas regarding the Club may submit them in writing or attend a ...

House Committee Meeting
1st and 3rd Tuesday at 5:30

The next House Committee will be in place beginning on April 1.



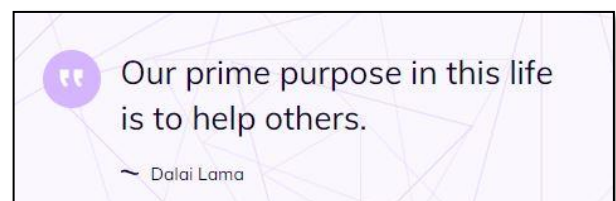
Audit & Accounting Committee

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

On February 6, 2024, two members of the Audit Committee and ER Mike West met with Elks Lodge #1648 account representative at Raymond James Investment Service. After reviewing the Investment Account, it was determined that the return on the account was 8.5% +/- over the entire 4 ½ years that the brokerage company has held the funds, which averages out to just under a 2% annual rate of return for the entire 4 ½ year period.

During this same period, the Dow Jones average was up ~ 30%, the S & P stock index was up ~ 67% and NASDAQ index was up ~ 93%. The statements reflect numerous trades (sales and purchases) numbering in the 20s to 40s per month for a number of months in 2023. Our representative did not know why there were so many transactions - especially on the fixed income trades. He reported that our account is handled by a subsidiary of Raymond James called EAGLE.

Due to the low return for the entire 4 ½ years that Raymond James has held the funds, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors, in the Elks Board Meeting on March 26, 2024, that the Board interview at least two other new management companies who will agree to attend a Board Meeting at least quarterly and report on the state of the account.





Grants Committee

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

I would like to take this time to thank all the Elks Lodge #1648 volunteers and other community volunteers for a job well done.

The Grants Committee now looks forward to the 2024 Grants Programs which looks promising - continuing with the same effort and similar goals. We will be starting on April 1 with the **Freedom Grant** with assistance from the Veterans Committee to provide the information and insight on Veteran's projects and planned programs.

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

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



Membership Committee

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!

April Birthdays



- 01 Robert Bashinsky; Joseph L. Vinson
- 02 Lee Gavitt; Michael Stewart
- 03 Tad Britton; James M. Chandler
- 04 Sheila Bell
- 06 Joan McWilliams
- 07 Michael Willett
- 08 Mark D. Payne; Jimmy Brice Ruple
- 10 Rebecca Harris
- 11 James L. Baumann; Paul Carter; Pamela Holden
- 14 Richard Morris; Stella Musick



- 15 William King
- 17 Vicki Adams; Richard Flores; Linda Garrett
- 18 David Grimes; Dennis Hanning; Ann Moore
- 19 Ricky Clark; Charles McClendon; Chad Thrasher
Taylor VanKoughnett
- 22 Adam Dixon
- 25 Bobby Shadrack; Jennifer Sickels; Stephen Wilt
- 26 Jeff Bagwell; Marshall Corlew
- 27 Jason Johnson
- 28 Angie Ezell
- 29 Mary Jane Anderson; Tiffany Denniston



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 April 22nd at 5:00 pm.**

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

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

Thank You to everyone that donated for the delivery on 3/25/2024.



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.

Veteran Donations Needed

The Tut Fann Veterans (and Elks) are having a blast at Dinner & Bingo at the Lodge! However, it is **NOT** sustainable – even one time per month. We receive \$150 per month from the Elks National Veterans Service Commission (ENVSC) with the goal to serve as many of the Veterans at Tut Fann as possible – as with the Easter donations. Dinner & Bingo serve only a small number of the Tut Fann Veteran residents.

Dinner & Bingo Cards cost **\$16 per Veteran**. We are expecting 20 Veterans to participate - **that's \$320 each time!** As you can see, we just can't afford it – **UNLESS** – our awesome Elks will donate to have the Tut Fann Veterans Dinner & Bingo Cards one time per month.

Please consider donating and encourage fellow Elks to donate as well. There is a Donation Jar on the bar for **2 Separate Donations:**

- 1) Loose CASH:** Veterans Only Bingo Round Prize
- 2) ENVELOPES:** Invite Tut Fann Veterans to the Lodge for Dinner & Bingo Cards one time per month.

★ **Tut Fann 2/28/2024 Thank You Letter for snacks donated: Click [HERE](#)**

★ **Sign-up** on the [next page](#) to get Veterans Activities information directly to your email.

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

Only 3 people have signed up to date. These are GREAT offers...

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

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





Fraternal/Activities Committee

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

As you can see, we've been busy and had an amazing March with the St. Patty's Day Party on March 16th and the great Chili Cookoff on March 23rd!

Future events are on the horizon. Support the Lodge, come enjoy some comradery, and have fun. This is one part of what we are about.

Volunteers are always welcome. Contact any of the hard workers on the Committee (above).

Elks Volunteer Sign-Up

Committee Chairs will contact you directly

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

Background images include: a turkey, an American flag, a sign for the State of Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (FLOYD E. 'TUT' FANN STATE VETERANS HOME), and a woman in a blue uniform with a "SPACE CAMP" logo.

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

April 2024 Elks Calendar



April 2024

*Chicken Buffet
2nd Thursday each month*

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Open: 4p Kitchen: 4-8p Bingo: 6p 	Open: 4p Kitchen: <i>Closed</i> <i>House Mtg: 5:30</i> <i>Membership Mtg: 6:30p</i> 	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p 	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-8:30p <i>Activities Mtg: 6p</i> Trivia: 7p 	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p 	Open: 2p Kitchen: <i>Closed</i> <i>Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza</i> 	Open: 2p Kitchen: <i>Closed</i>
Open: 4p Kitchen: 4-8p Bingo: 6p 	Open: 4p Kitchen: <i>Closed</i> <i>Board Mtg: 6p</i> <i>Lodge Mtg: 7p</i> 	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p 	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-8:30p Trivia: 7p <i>Chicken Buffet</i> 	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p 	Open: 2p Kitchen: <i>Closed</i> <i>Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza</i> 	Open: 2p Kitchen: <i>Closed</i>
Open: 4p Kitchen: 4-8p Bingo: 6p 	Open: 4p Kitchen: <i>Closed</i> <i>House Mtg: 5:30</i> <i>Membership Mtg: 6:30p</i> 	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p 	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-8:30p <i>Activities Mtg: 6p</i> Trivia: 7p 	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p 	Open: 2p Kitchen: <i>Closed</i> <i>Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza</i> 	Open: 2p Kitchen: <i>Closed</i>
Open: 4p Kitchen: 4-8p Bingo: 6p <i>Tut Fann Veterans Dinner & Bingo</i> 	Open: 4p Kitchen: <i>Closed</i> <i>Board Mtg: 6p</i> <i>Lodge Mtg: 7p</i> 	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p 	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-8:30p Trivia: 7p 	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p 	Open: 12:30p Kitchen: <i>Closed</i> <i>Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza</i> 	Open: 2p Kitchen: <i>Closed</i>
Open: 4p Kitchen: 4-8p Bingo: 6p 	Open: 4p Kitchen: <i>Closed</i>	<p><i>Please drop-off Snacks for Tut Fann Veterans</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered Monthly 				

*** 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

By the Elks Lodge #1648 Newsletter Committee
 Feedback: Email the Newsletter Chair at TracyLSwayne@Swaywin.com
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* Click & go to Elks Facebook page with lots of info & pics