



Charity ★ Justice ★ Brotherly Love ★ Fidelity

The **ELKS**  
Call

Huntsville Elks Lodge #1648

# Newsletter

February 2024

## Exalted Ruler's Message

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I want to thank everyone who volunteered to unpack and install our Christmas decorations and put them back up every January. January has been a cold month, with your Lodge closed for several days due to severe ice. Thanks to the club staff and house committee folks for ensuring we reopen safely. We are one of the only Lodge clubs open seven days a week, and the kitchen is open four days a week with staff. Always bring friends to the Lodge; you have fun with them, and they are introduced to our Lodge.

Membership has never been more critical than now, and your Lodge needs you to recruit. Again, bring friends and coworkers down and approach them about becoming an Elk. Applications are on the club bar, so sign them up; many of us would gladly assist you. I remind everyone that we appreciate every Lodge member and encourage you to become active in the Lodge. Community service is the purpose behind Elks, not just the food, beverages, and camaraderie in the club. Please volunteer to join the 10% who raise their hand in the Lodge and our community services.

Others and I attended the Elks State Convention at Perdido Beach Resort, with Elks across the state coming together. One evening, I had a great discussion with Grand Exalted Ruler Randy Shook and his wife, Wanda, from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. We discussed our state's issues with games of chance and his legislative solutions in Tennessee. They've said they'd love to come to Huntsville one evening for dinner so we could have them all over for supper one night at Huntsville Lodge. It was reported in meetings that state legislation, which will involve the state lottery, will likely be proposed in the first session in February. Step by step through Elks across Alabama, we will reestablish raffles in our lodges in the right way and legally over time.

The Huntsville Lodge Officer and Trustee elections are coming up! Nominations will be on **February 13th at the 7 pm** Lodge Meeting. Elections will be on **February 27th at 7 pm** at the Lodge Meeting. The future of our Lodge involves new ideas and faces, so please get involved in the voting process and consider the new and existing candidates for the future of your Lodge.

Until next time.

**Mike A. West**

Exalted Ruler  
Huntsville Elks Lodge No.1648  
**"ELKS EXIST TO SERVE OTHERS."**





# VOTE for Next Year's Lodge Officers Elections

**Nominations:** February 13<sup>th</sup> Lodge Meeting: 7p

**Elections:** February 27<sup>th</sup> Lodge Meeting: 7p

***Let Your Voice Be Heard!***

2023 Elks Member Survey  
*Click for Results*

Survey Results were in the January *Elks Call Newsletter* and requested again for February



Huntsville Elks Lodge No.1648 Alabama  
141 likes • 180 followers

## Elks Lodge No. 1648 Facebook Page

Please “**Like**” and “**Follow**” the Huntsville Elks Lodge Facebook Page. ER West has security measures in place and updates the page daily to get information directly from him.

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

**Elks "Chimes of Liberty/Protecting our Future" Float** in the **Tournament of Roses Parade January 1, 2024**, showcased commitment to community service, friendship, and charity.

Nearly 25,000 flowers decorated the 55-foot-long float from the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE). The Declaration of Independence features crème paperbark, with edges of light tan ground oats and dark brown coffee-lettering of black beans, dark brown coffee and tan fine walnut shell. Cranberry seeds, fine-ground rice and fine-cut statice make up the American flag's red, white, and blue.



Click [HERE](#) to watch a video of the Elks float on Facebook

Watch [HERE](#) on YouTube, with Judging [HERE](#)





## Elks Provide Food to Curb Child Hunger

Elks provided nutrition and personal necessities for the [Buckhorn High School Pantry of Needs](#). In December, while delivering the fifty 40-pound Christmas break food packs, it was discovered that their pantry was completely bare.

ER Mike West delivered donated items, including the items donated by the *Ladies Christmas Party* when they chose to donate rather than have an annual Dirty Santa Party.

ER West pledged that the Elks Huntsville Lodge will continue to support the Buckhorn High School pantry throughout the school year in 2024.

***Thank You to EVERYONE that Helped Feed the Children***



*ER Mike West delivered needed items to the Buckhorn Pantry of Needs*

## Elks State Mid-Year Meeting at Perdido Beach Resort



ER Mike West thanks everyone that came. Many Elks Members made the trip to LA (Lower Alabama), with even more that could not make it because of the ice storm that shut down the Huntsville area for a week.

ER West had great discussions with Grand Exalted Ruler Randy Shook and his wife, Wanda, from Lawrenceburg, TN. They briefly discussed Alabama issues with gaming and Mr. Shook's legislative solutions in TN. They said they'd love to come to Huntsville one evening for dinner.



# We Remember Our Absent Members

*Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken.*

Jimmy Musick



George Ellzey



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



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



Contact **Sally Culver**  
[sallyculver@bellsouth.net](mailto:sallyculver@bellsouth.net)  
(256) 508-2834

## VOTE for Next Year's Elks Officers

February 13th Lodge Meeting – 7p: **Nominations**

February 27th Lodge Meeting – 7p: **Elections**

## Elks Lodge Officers 2023-2024

**Exalted Ruler** ..... Mike West  
**Leading Knight** ..... Kathy Pierce  
**Loyal Knight**..... Scott Stokes  
**Lecturing Knight**....Julie Schenck-Brown  
**Secretary** ..... Nicole Anderson  
**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

Secretary Nicole Anderson: [nicole-anderson@comcast.net](mailto:nicole-anderson@comcast.net)

Hours: Tuesdays & some Wednesday's 5 – 7 pm at the Lodge

- Dues for fiscal year 2023-2024 are \$118 – 2024-2025 Dues are \$123. *Read invoice carefully*
- Add an additional \$5.00 for an Access Card or Replacement Card - *note it on your payment*

- Only Members current on dues may enter the Lodge. Delinquent Members may not be signed in as Guests
- Payments: place in **Secretary's Box** on wall to the left of double glass doors



# Elks National Foundation Scholarship Programs

## Legacy Awards

Legacy Awards are \$4,000 scholarships available to children and grandchildren of Elks members.

- Any child or grandchild (or step-child, step-grandchild, or legal ward) of a living Elk who joined the order on or before April 1, 2021 ... The Elk must also be a paid-up member through March 31, 2024. Great-grandchildren are not eligible.
- The applicant must be a high school senior

The 2024 application closes on **February 5, 2024**.

Click [here](#) for details.



[Click for video](#)

## 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.

## Elks Ring-In the New Year

*With a 10:00 pm Tropical Toast*



Thank you, **Kyle Rone**, for Being the DJ for Great Dancing

## Decorating for Mardi Gras



### *Thank You!!!*

Tom & Peg Rathz; Cathy Kulas; and Kathy DavisChesser for doing such a great job decorating!

**These folks always go the extra mile for Elks Events**

## Mardi Gras Extravaganza February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm

Click [HERE](#) to enlarge for details

### *Mardis Gras Extravaganza*

at

Huntsville Elks Lodge No.1648 Alabama

### February 10, 2024

*Invite friends as guests too!*



#### The details:

- Dinner - 6pm
- Music with DJ Tim Howard playing your favorite dance music on the Lodge | dance floor!
- \$10 cover at the door for entertainment expenses.
- All foods are covered dish by attendees to feed at least six.
- \$25 in Elks bucks to each male and female for gaudiest Mardi Gras costumes!

#### *Mardis Gras dinner suggestions: Creole / Cajun*

- Red beans & rice, gumbo, muffulettas, crabcakes, wings, and more.
- Collard greens, turnip greens, and more.
- Cornbread, hush puppies, Cajun mac & cheese, and more
- King Cake, pecan pie, Key lime pie, beignets, bread, pudding, and more

***- SIGN UP SHEET AT CLUB BAR...please sign up.***



## Committee Reports



### House Committee

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

- Inspection of the Lodge facilities found no known damage due to the January winter storm while the Lodge was closed.
- Fryer oils have been changed as per the two-week schedule.
- Health Department Club kitchen rating is **94**.
- Bills and taxes against the Club are paid.
- Monthly inventory of the Club bar and kitchen were completed on schedule.
- **Tickets for the February 10 Mardi Gras Party are on sale at the bar.**

*Special thanks to the members who volunteer to barback for the bartenders to get the bar open.*

- No repairs were made in January.
- 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**



### Audit & Accounting Committee

**Kathy DavisChesser: Chair;** Nan Stuart; Alan McClendon; Butch Buffalo; Mike Wisner

- December Audit is complete.
- All invoices were paid accurately and accounts are in balance.



### Grants Committee

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

The Grants Committee is currently reviewing requirements and outlining/writing grants for the upcoming year

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



### 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 DavisChesser; Sallyanne Cos; Fran Morris

Thanks to all who helped decorate and take down Christmas ornaments and participated in all the Christmas events.

- The next event will be **Mardi Gras** on February 10<sup>th</sup> with Cajun Cuisine, Costume Contest, and DJ Music. Click [HERE](#) for details, and check the [Lodge's Facebook page](#), emails, and posters. **Sign up at the bar.**
- Plans are underway for a **St. Paddy's Day** event in mid-March. **Come Celebrate!**
- Plans are being made for a CASI Alabama **Chili Cookoff** to be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> along with a separate Chili Cookoff open to Members and the public.

*~ Be on the Lookout ~  
More Details to Come*

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

# Membership

## 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!

## 2023 Elks Member Survey

Thank you for taking time to complete the **Member Survey** conducted late last year.

2023 Elks Member Survey

[Click for Results](#)

## Welcome Newest Elks



From left: Norm Hawes; Betsy Rouse; Matt Rainey; and Stephen Norris

## February Birthdays

- 01 Kathy Pierce
- 03 E. Lamon
- 05 Mike Fulton; Curtis Hall; Philip D. Radzinski; Chester West; Janice West
- 07 Karl Peterson; Larry D. Pridmore; William H. Russell
- 08 David Lee
- 10 Robby Chandler; Kenneth Gawronski; Jason Healy; L. Thomas Ryan; John Vankampen
- 11 Susan Johnson
- 12 Doug Lumpkin; John Worley; Marvin Yost
- 13 Scott Retzler
- 14 Johnny Burks
- 15 David Jones; Gary Lunsford; John Milligan; Sherry Ray O'Dell

- 16 Nancy Dugas
- 17 Brian Allen; Gordon W. Day
- 18 Jim Duncan
- 19 Diane Bryan; H. Jay Lockridge
- 20 Michael Innes; Barbara Schulze
- 22 Ellis Johnston; Joel Ratcliff
- 23 Sam Givhan
- 24 Briana Teague
- 26 Carol Codori; Charles Hopper; Andrea Mastin; Sherry Retzler
- 28 Billy Carlton; Michael Davis; Marcus Huber







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

★ **Are You Interested in Attending...**

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

★ Join us at the...

**Veterans Committee Meeting**  
 February 5th<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

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

*Thank You to everyone that donated for the delivery on 1/26/2024*



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

*If you like 'em – they'll like 'em.*

**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



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

# February 2024 Elks Calendar

Meeting Night 



*Chicken Buffet is Back  
2nd Thursday each month*

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	
 <p><i>Please drop-off Snacks for Tut Fann Veterans</i></p> <p>• Delivered Monthly </p>			<p>Open: 4p <sup>1</sup> Kitchen: 5-8:30p Activities Mtg: 5:30 Trivia: 7p </p> 	<p>Open: 4p <sup>2</sup> Kitchen: 5-9p</p>  	<p>Open: 2p <sup>3</sup> Kitchen: Closed Serving Hot Dogs &amp; Pizza</p> 	<p>Open: 2p <sup>4</sup> Kitchen: Closed</p>	
<p>Open: 4p <sup>5</sup> Kitchen: 4-8p Bingo: 6p Veterans Mtg: 6p</p> 	<p>Open: 4p <sup>6</sup> Kitchen: Closed House Mtg: 5:30 Membership Mtg: 6:30p</p> 	<p>Open: 4p <sup>7</sup> Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p</p> 	<p>Open: 4p <sup>8</sup> Kitchen: 5-8:30p Trivia: 7p Chicken Buffet</p> 	<p>Open: 4p <sup>9</sup> Kitchen: 5-9p</p>  	<p>Open: 2p <sup>10</sup> Kitchen: Closed Mardi Gras Party Pot Luck</p> 	<p>Open: 2p <sup>11</sup> Kitchen: Closed Pot Luck: 5:30p</p> 	
<p>Open: 4p <sup>12</sup> Kitchen: 4-8p Bingo: 6p</p> 	<p>Open: 4pm <sup>13</sup> Kitchen: Closed Board Mtg: 6p Lodge Mtg: 7p Nominations</p> 	<p>Open: 4p <sup>14</sup> Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p Valentine's Day</p> 	<p>Open: 4p <sup>15</sup> Kitchen: 5-8:30p Activities Mtg: 5:30 Trivia: 7p </p> 	<p>Open: 4p <sup>16</sup> Kitchen: 5-9p</p>  	<p>Open: 2p <sup>17</sup> Kitchen: Closed Serving Hot Dogs &amp; Pizza</p> 	<p>Open: 2p <sup>18</sup> Kitchen: Closed</p>	
<p>Open: 4p <sup>19</sup> Kitchen: 4-8p Bingo: 6p Presidents' Day</p> 	<p>Open: 4p <sup>20</sup> Kitchen: Closed House Mtg: 5:30 Membership Mtg: 6:30p</p> 	<p>Open: 4p <sup>21</sup> Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p</p> 	<p>Open: 4p <sup>22</sup> Kitchen: 5-8:30p Trivia: 7p</p> 	<p>Open: 4p <sup>23</sup> Kitchen: 5-9p</p>  	<p>Open: 2p <sup>24</sup> Kitchen: Closed Serving Hot Dogs &amp; Pizza</p> 	<p>Open: 2p <sup>25</sup> Kitchen: Closed</p>	
<p>Open: 4p <sup>26</sup> Kitchen: 4-8p Bingo: 6p</p> 	<p>Open: 4p <sup>27</sup> Kitchen: Closed Board Mtg: 6p Lodge Mtg: 7p Elections</p> 	<p>Open: 4p <sup>28</sup> Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p</p> 	<p>Open: 4p <sup>29</sup> Kitchen: 5-8:30p Trivia: 7p</p> 	 <p>LEAP DAY ONE EXTRA DAY</p>			

**\* 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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