



The ELKS Call



Vol. 41, No. 2

Huntsville Elks Lodge No. 1648

May, 2023

Exalted Ruler's Message



One year from now, I will not be Your Exalted Ruler. This Lodge deserves fresh ideas; you will have determined who that will be. So, please join me this year in making fundamental changes for our future. We can choose to go with ideas that have worked in the past and new ideas that we still need to explore.

We can set goals even larger for new membership growth to "exceed" fifty new members. With new applications in the queue, our membership is just under 500 members. That is a far cry from the over 2400 members during the '60s & 70's during NASA's Apollo program to the moon. We might never reach that number again. But NASA is planning to return to the moon. So why can't we also return to that prominence as the largest city in the State of Alabama?

We can act the status quo, like many lodges across our country. Those lodges are closed like the over eighty that did not see the new year or reside at the end of their rope hanging on even now. This past year we lost revenue streams that have supported lodges across this state since the 1960s. We must find new and original ideas for revenue streams that benefit our Lodge while promoting community service and activities here at our club.

As a previous long-time smoker, I understand the risks and enjoyment of smoking. Smoking and non-smoking have been a great debate in establishments for years. I suggest we come together as members this year to see how we can make this a healthier lodge. But how do we accommodate those members that wish to smoke? That must be determined first, and I look at the game room, card room, and patio as ideal alternatives.

On September 12th, I will propose to the Board of Directors, a plan. It will be posted on the bulletin board and emailed to all Elks members. On September 26th at 7 pm, I will read that plan as a motion. It will be up to members attending that lodge meeting on that evening to accept the motion to go non-smoking or remain smoking. "Membership, not leadership, will make this decision."

We are an Elks Lodge and a corporation. We can be a lodge for as long as Elk's Grand Lodge grants us our charter, which in business is a franchise. The corporation consists of President, three Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and five Trustees. We all, the members, are the shareholders and control the narrative when you appear to be heard and vote at the Lodge meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

I hope you will join me in real change this year. We are deciding now that in twenty years this Lodge will be grander and better than ever before. Members will sit and look at a new exalted ruler then, and by acting now, we have satisfaction in our hearts that we decided to build for their future starting today.

I hope you'll join me in these goals - let's not stop at the moon!

Mike A. West, Exalted Ruler Huntsville Elks Lodge #1648

House Committee

House Committee is working hard to make this new year a great one for our Members. The club budget for year 2023 - 2024 was completed and submitted to the Governing Board. All licenses are current for the bar and kitchen. Taxes and bills against the club are paid and current. A new air scrubber has been installed in the lounge. Minor repairs have been made to the sandwich prep cooler, walk-in refrigerator, HVAC and alarm system. Scheduled cleaning of the kitchen stove hood and evacuation of the outside grease trap are completed. The Club Manager, April Wiggins, and the Cook, James Madaris, have completed the required five year re-certification of the Serve Safe food handling qualification. Current health department score for the kitchen is 94.

On May 5, Cinco de Mayo, the club will offer drink and food specials. On May 6, for Kentucky Derby Day is a "Derby Day Hat Contest", Mint Juleps and BBQ sandwiches for sale. Thanks to the volunteers that help with club operations and special events. Members with ideas or concerns regarding the club may submit them in writing or attend a HC meeting which is the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30.

House Committee:

Chair: Greg Welzyn
Alt Chair: Pat Edwards
Ed Limback
Todd Lester
David Grimes
Matthew Danner
Janice West



Happy Birthday

May Birthdays:

- 1 Sam Citrano Jr., Jimka Vaughn
- 2 Kathy Chesser
- 4 Les Thornton
- 5 Douglas R. Smith
- 6 Alethia Birmingham
- 7 Daniel Zolynsky
- 10 Ted Bullard
- 11 Nona Hopper
- 12 Michael Boysen, Thomas Hartley
- 16 George Boyd, Terry Cagle, Travis Cummings, Robert Stinson, Mary Tweedy
- 18 Hal Beach, Gina Spencer
- 20 David Burkett
- 24 Joseph Henderson
- 25 Albert Schild
- 31 Ken Adams, Scott Stokes, Stephen Walker

Grant Committee

Grant Committee:

- Christy Johnson
- Scott (Barbara) Stokes
- Jerry (Anna) Skonieczny
- Cathy Kulas

*If anyone would like to help participate in the 2023-2024 grants this year, please email the Elks Lodge Secretary, Nicole Anderson at nicole-anderson@comcast.net

Secretary's Corner



Dues for fiscal year 2023-2024 are \$118.00. Please read your invoice carefully. If you want a card for your spouse, please add another \$5.00 to your check and note it on your payment. Also, we are grateful for ENF donations as well.

Club access cards and replacement cards are \$5.00 each.

Please remember that only members current on their dues may enter the building and they cannot sign in "delinquent" members as guests.

Payments can be made when you come in. Please put your payment in the Secretary's Box on

wall to the left of double glass doors or you can pay online at <https://search.revopay.com/elkslodge>

Membership Applications: Members, if you plan to propose someone for membership, please fill out the application in its entirety and include the fee. Many of these apps are coming to the Membership Team not properly filled out and/or no payment. Let's help them run things much more smoothly so we can get them initiated soonest.

Secretary hours are on Tuesdays and some Wednesdays from 5pm-7pm at the Elks Lodge and always by email at nicole-anderson@comcast.net

Nicole ♥

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

Please contact Sally Culver for any sickness and distress.

Email sallyculver@bellsouth.net

Phone 256-508-2834.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee meets on the first Tuesday of every month.

The Elks Membership Committee conducts interviews and orientation on the first Tuesday of every month. We especially enjoy it when current Elks attend the meetings as they are instrumental in helping the applicants understand our cardinal principles of charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity. And since the strength of our Lodge depends on our members, please consider proposing a friend for membership the next time you stop in.

Thank You,

- Drenda King
- Kevin Butler
- Cathy Kulas
- Lorren Bailey

Mike Kessler






Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler

mwkessler53@charter.net

MAY 2023

Please remember it is your responsibility to help keep our lodge healthy!
Please wash your hands often and if you feel unwell, please stay home.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open BAR BINGO 6:00 p.m.	2 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open House Committee Meeting 5:30 p.m. Membership Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.	3 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open 5:00-9:00 p.m. Texas Hold'em! 6:30 p.m. 	4 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open 5:00-9:00 p.m. Trivia 7:00 p.m. (Every Thursday)	5 Cinco de Mayo! Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open 5:00-9:00 p.m.	6 Derby Day! Open 2:00 p.m. Kitchen Closed Serving Hot Dogs and Pizza
7 Open 2:00 p.m. Kitchen Closed	8 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open BAR BINGO 6:00 p.m.	9 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Closed Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. Lodge Meeting 7:00 p.m.	10 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open 5:00-9:00 p.m. Texas Hold'em! 6:30 p.m. 	11 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open 5:00-9:00 p.m. Trivia 7:00 p.m. (Every Thursday)	12 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open 5:00-9:00 p.m.	13 Open 2:00 p.m. Kitchen Closed Serving Hot Dogs and Pizza
14 Happy Mother's Day Open 2:00 p.m. Kitchen Closed	15 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open BAR BINGO 6:00 p.m.	16 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open House Committee Meeting 5:30 p.m.	17 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open 5:00-9:00 p.m. Texas Hold'em! 6:30 p.m. 	18 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open 5:00-9:00 p.m. Trivia 7:00 p.m. (Every Thursday)	19 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open 5:00-9:00 p.m.	20 Open 2:00 p.m. Kitchen Closed Serving Hot Dogs and Pizza
21 Open 2:00 p.m. Kitchen Closed	22 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open BAR BINGO 6:00 p.m.	23 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Closed Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. Lodge Meeting 7:00 p.m.	24 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open 5:00-9:00 p.m. Texas Hold'em! 6:30 p.m. 	25 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open 5:00-9:00 p.m. Trivia 7:00 p.m. (Every Thursday)	26 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open 5:00-9:00 p.m.	27 Open 2:00 p.m. Kitchen Closed Serving Hot Dogs and Pizza
28 Open 2:00 p.m. Kitchen Closed	29 Memorial Day! Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open BAR BINGO 6:00 p.m.	30	31 Open 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Open 5:00-9:00 p.m. Texas Hold'em! 6:30 p.m. 			

MAY SPECIAL EVENTS

May 5th: Cinco de Mayo - Drink and Food Specials

May 6th: Derby Day and Hat Contest: Mint Julips and BBQ for sale

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
5 Year Trustee: Louis Tumminello
4 Year Trustee: Mary Cannon
3 Year Trustee: Phillip Towry
2 Year Trustee: Jan Abbott

1 Year Trustee: Jay Lockridge
Chaplain: Sally Culver
Esquire: Peggy Rathz
Tiler: Kevin Butler
Inner Guard: Tom Rathz

The Bulletin Board

Please keep bringing in your plastic screw on caps!
No flat plastic lids or caps that DO NOT screw on can be accepted anymore.

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table Schedule

General Meetings
(2nd Thursday of each month 6:30-8:00pm)

May 11: Behind the Rifle - Women Soldiers in Mississippi (Shelby Harriel)
June 8: Nashville & Decatur Railroad (Walter Green)
July 13: Black Confederates (Teresa Roane)
August 10: Hamton Roads - Civil War Naval Operations (John Quarstein)
September 14: Lee & Grant (Curt Fields and Thomas Jessee)
October 12: Fort Pickens vs. Fort Sumter (Michael Acosta)
November 9: The Sultana Disaster (John Fogleman)
December: No Meeting

Register for an Elks.org account!

Visit Elks.org home page

and

click the "Register" link in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

Little War Round Table Schedule

(4th Thursday of each month 6:30-8:00pm)

May 25: Antietam, Part 3
June 22: Antietam, Part 4
July 27: TBD
August 24: TBD
September 28: TBD
October 26: TBD
November: No Meeting
December 14: TBD



Please welcome our newest members

Left to right, front row: Dawn Hagstrom, Stephen Clanton, Tracy Swayne
Left to right, back row: Cotton DeMarcus, Joseph Shaw, Eric Olson, Lee Leschinski, Sheila Bell
Not Pictured: Robert Woodcock

**Alabama Elks Association
Annual Convention June 2-4, 2023
Double Tree by Hilton, Decatur AL
Theme: "Great Gatsby"**

Thursday, June 1

4:00–6:00 PM

Registration

Friday, June

9:00 AM

Registration Resumes

1:00 PM

Business Session

(Attire: Association Officers: Men- sports coat, tie optional; women – Business; all others- Casual, sport coats recommended)

Call to Order

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

"God Bless America"

Welcome and Introductions

Roll Call of Lodges and Officers

Minutes of Previous Session

Introduction of Head Table

Convention Chairman Comments

Introduction of PGER – State Sponsor

Comments of State Sponsor

Credentials Committee Report

Nomination of Officers (2 minutes each)

Candidate Comments (3 minutes each)

President Report

President Elect Report

DVP North District

DVP Central District

DVP South District/Convention report

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Alabama Elks Trustees' Report

Grand Lodge Auditing & Accounting

(Additional Reports if time allows)

President, Lester Collins

Chaplain, Mike Childress

Sharon Gaydon

SDGER Rick Thompson

President, Lester Collins

Secretary, Joel Vickery

Secretary, Joel Vickery

President, Lester Collins

Mike Bennett

SDGER, Rick Thompson

PGER, Michael Smith

Bob Shinpaugh

Delegates

Candidates

President, Lester Collins

Pres. Elect Robert Norred

Dan Barger

John Gaydon

Tony Glebosky

Secretary, Joel Vickery

Treasurer, Bob Shinpaugh

Chairman, Matt Kornegay

Steve Varner

4:00 PM

Recess Business Meeting until 1:00 PM Saturday

5:00 PM – 12:00 AM

Hospitality Room Open

4:30 PM

Eleventh Hours Toast Contest

Saturday, June 3rd

8:00 AM

Convention Registration Resumes

8:30 AM

Scholarship Reception

9:00 AM

Scholarship Presentation

11:00 AM

Memorial Service

Saturday Cont.’

(All Association Officers are expected to attend the Scholarship Awards and Memorial Service.
Officer Attire: Business)

12:00 PM

1:30 PM

- Call to Oder
- Roll Call of Lodges and Officers
- Credentials Update and Election of Officers
- Accident Prevention and Insurance Update
- Alabama Elks Trust Update
- Americanism
- CLMS Update
- Convention Contract Site for 2024
- Elks National Foundation
- Fraternal Committee
- Elks Veteran Service Commission
- Business Practices Committee
- Grand Lodge Convention Update
- Lodge Activities
- Membership/Indoctrination
- Lodge Development
- Shootout Update
- State Calendar
- “Stoke and Smoke”
- Youth Activities
 - Drug Awareness
 - Hoop/ Shoot
 - Scholarship
 - Dictionary
- Web Site Administrator
- Public Relations
- By-Laws and Resolutions
- Old Business
- New Business
- Good of the Order
- Announcements
- Closing Prayer

Lunch on your own

Business Session Resumes

- President, Lester Collins
- Secretary, Joel Vickery
- Bob Shinpaugh
- Chairman, Howard Prater
- Chairman, Gwen Parker
- Chairman, Sharon Gaydon
- Nona Gordon
- Mike Bennett
- Chairman, Patrick James
- Chairman, Gwen Parker
- Chairman, Mike Jerrell
- Chairman, Declan Foy
- Chairman, Joel Vickery
- Chairman, Mickey Drinkard
- Chairman, Mickey Drinkard
- Chairman, Ben Welch
- Chairman, Jim Norton
- Chairman, John Findley
- Chairman, Charles King
- Chairman, Rick Thompson
- Chairman, Matt Kornegay
- Chairman, Joel Vickery
- Chairman, Bob Shinpaugh
- Chairman, Jackie Ridgeway
- Chairman, Eric Allison
- Chairman, Mike Childress
- Liz Bishop

Chaplain, Mike Childress

ELECTIONS RESULTS REPORT WHEN AVAILABLE

4:00 PM

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

5:00 PM

6:30 PM

(Theme **Great Gatsby**: Attire: Association Officers: Summer Formal; women – Evening or Business; all others- Casual, sport coats recommended)

7:00 PM

11:00 PM

Alabama Elks Trust Meeting

Hospitality Room Opens

Reception Pres. Elect Robert Norred

Banquet Doors Open

Banquet Dinner

Eleventh Hour Toast and Shoot Out

2023 Grand Lodge Convention Registration Form
Minneapolis, Minnesota July 02 - 05, 2023

Name..... _____

Address..... _____

Phone..... _____

E-mail..... _____

Arrival Date..... _____

Departure Date..... _____

Credit Card Type..... _____

Credit Card Number..... _____

Expiration Date..... _____

Room Type Requested	King	Double Queen
Not Guarenteed	Circle One	

Americans with Disability Act (ADA)

Should you have special needs please describe them below so this data can be passed along to the Grand Lodge as well as the hotel.

Send completed form to:

Joel F. Vickery
1225 Meadowlark Road
Winfield, Alabama 35594
jtvickery86@yahoo.com