



Charity ★ Justice ★ Brotherly Love ★ Fidelity

The **ELKS**
Call

Huntsville Elks Lodge #1648

Newsletter

November 2023

Exalted Ruler's Message

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Hello all, I repeat from last month: it's a great time to be an Elk! Camaraderie among early morning volunteers recently raised \$646.00 in donations from our empty weekend parking lot. That money will supplement the ENF grant for use with bags for underserved mothers and their newborn babies administered through Happi Clinic, and we also still need newborn diapers! We are already in preparation for the 30lb food packs for underserved school children so they may have nourishment during Christmas break. We have reestablished a working relationship with Tut Fann State Veterans Home and are excited to work with them and Madison County Veterans Court, where 24 backpacks of nourishment and necessities were delivered through the Redstone Sergeant Majors Association. "Activities with our community service is what Elks are all about to our very foundation."



ER Mike A. West

Quality growth of membership is a strong goal of your lodge this year. It's amazing that our new membership is younger, full of ideas, and committed to our growth and committees where the work is organized. You see me say work, and I mean good works, that so many enjoy. You get out of the Elks exactly what you put into it; that's a fact. Technology alone, just in the past few months, with a member survey, we want to know what you want in your lodge and what you don't. It will improve our lodge in so many ways and just check out your brand-new Newsletter that volunteers produce with more information than ever before!

I encourage all members to attend a Board of Directors and Lodge Meeting every month. Very few listen to the business of your lodge. The changes, the finances, and the decisions. You, the membership as Exalted Ruler, is who I answer to, not a Board of ten other people. It's you, the people we represent, and if you're not there, how do you know what's happening? Whispers in the club are not what happens in the meetings, and you'll only know the truth by attending the two meetings. And yes, you're welcome to each on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 pm and 7 pm respectively.

I speak of younger members getting involved, and I know firsthand that your new ideas are good ones and not lost on me. I encourage everyone to consider running for office this spring! Exalted Ruler, any one of The Three Knight Chairs, Treasurer, Secretary, or Trustee. Your Board has not changed much in recent years, and change can be good. Ideas, fresh ideas, innovation, and technology are the tools of success for the survival of our future. We need new blood to show us that just because we've done it this way all these years, it will be successful in the future. It won't, and we need you to seriously consider where you wish your lodge to be in the coming years.

It's always been an honor to serve you our members, but I can't overemphasize that without you, the membership's involvement in this lodge will not grow and flourish in the future. Those aren't cup-half-empty emotions, that's the truth. I already see the positivity all around me in the membership, but you must get involved for your lodge's sake.

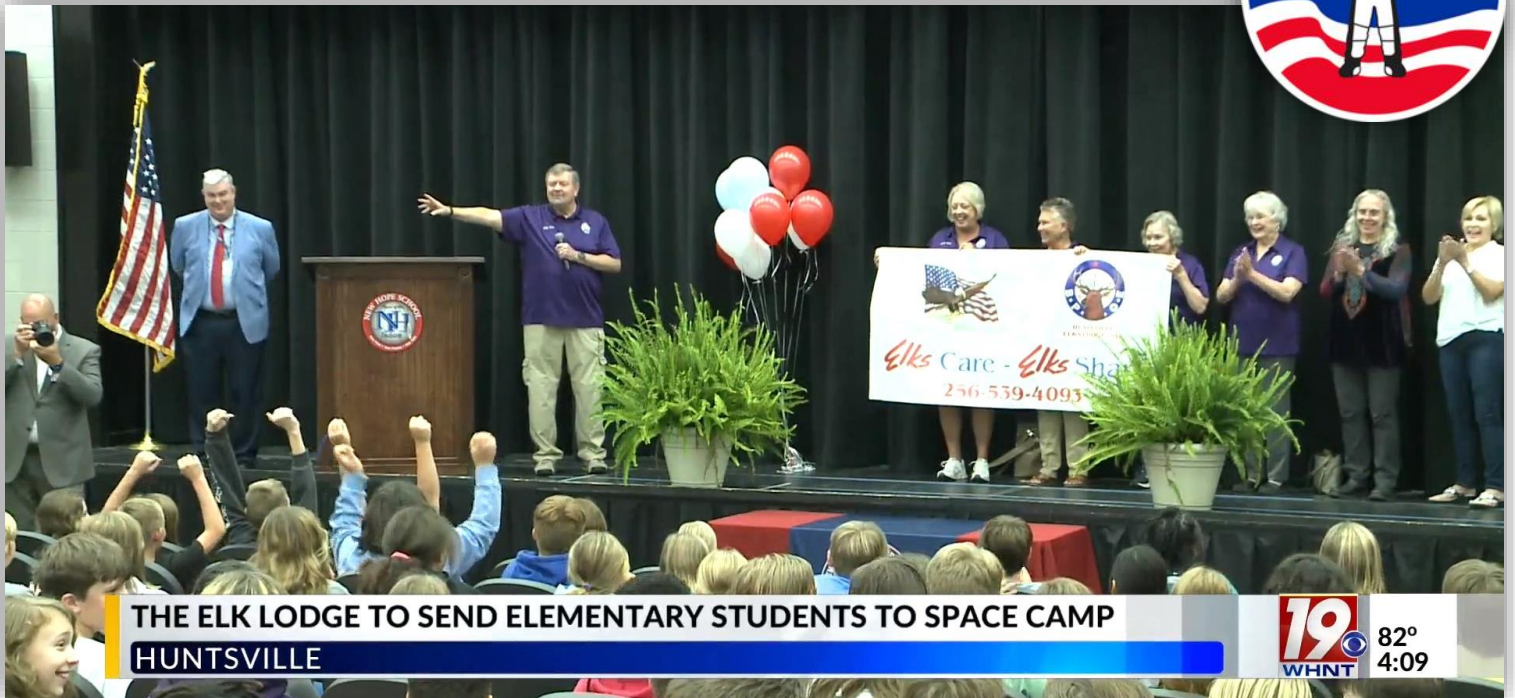
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Elks Help Kids Reach for Space



BPOE Lodge #1648 provided ~ \$75,000 to send 113 students and 8 chaperones to Space Camp in Spring 2024.

In case you missed it, [Channel 19 \(WHNT\) covered the event](#). Our Elks were just as excited as the kids when they made the announcement.



ER Mike West, Treasurer Janice West, Leading Knight Kathy Pierce, and Elks Drenda King, Cathy Kulas, Julie Schenck-Brown, and Kathy DavisChesser helped with the presentation



ER West stated, "I've got to believe that out of these 113 kids that go to Space Camp, one or more is going to make a difference in our space programs moving forward."



This donation was made possible by a generous trust established by Elk Elmer Hargis. Mr. Hargis had a vision of children and space. His vision continues to live today through our Lodge and through 5th graders throughout the years.

Elks Lodge #1648 provided 24 ~40-pound Backpacks full of non-perishable food & personal items that Wellstone will deliver to Veterans



(l-r) Wellstone Supervisor Tammy Leeth, with Kelli Glass (Wellstone) and Tracy L. Swayne (Huntsville Elks Lodge #1648)

HAPPI Health



Your **Grants Committee** was hard at work in the wee hours of the 20th Annual [Liz Hurley Breast Cancer Ribbon Run](#).

Elks offered runners to park for free – or make a donation to buy diapers and supplies for [HAPPI Health](#). **\$646.29 was collected.**

See *page 6* for items needed for the “HAPPI Baby Shower”. A crib is located at the Lodge North Entrance for collections.

Thank you to: ER Mike & Janice West; Scott & Barbara Stokes; Tom Pluth; Kevin Butler; Max Thompson; Greg Welzyn; and Jerry & Anna Skonieczny



(l-r) Lenora and Donald Garner, runner participants & donors to the HAPPI Clinic - with Scott Stokes

ER Mike West can be seen in the background overlooking the event to find additional parking spaces.



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

5 Year _ Louis Tumminello
4 Year _____ Mary Cannon
3 Year _____ Phillip Towry
2 Year _____ Jan Abbott

Chaplain _____ Sally Culver
Esquire _____ Peggy Rathz
Tiler _____ Kevin Butler
Inner Guard _____ Tom Rathz

Secretary Nicole Anderson: nicole-anderson@comcast.net
 Hours: Tuesdays & some Wednesday's 5 – 7 pm at the Lodge

- Dues for fiscal year 2023-2024 are \$118 – *please read your invoice carefully*
- Add an additional \$5.00 for an Access Card or replacement card and note it on your payment
- We are grateful for ENF donations.

- 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. Place in Secretary's Box - on the wall to the left of double glass doors.

Committee Reports



- Bills and taxes against the Club are current
- Monthly inventory of the bar and kitchen is completed
- Minor repairs were made to the HVAC fan in the lounge
- Leaks - Bar faucet and hand sink were repaired
- The Health Department Inspection resulted in a score of **94** for the Club Kitchen
- **The Club will be closed for Thanksgiving Day** on Thursday, November 23rd

The House Committee thanks those Members who volunteer with the Club operations and with special events.

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

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

House Committee:

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

Welcome
Sommer Woods
New Bartender



Reviews Financial Reporting for Accuracy

The Audit Committee is finalizing the review of the 3rd quarter financial activities.

Thank you for supporting your Elks Lodge.

Audit Committee:

Kathy DavisChesser: Chair
Alan McClendon
Nancy Stuart

JURY DUTY

SCAM ALERT

See the [Elks Facebook page](#) for details:
Search Facebook for
Huntsville Elks Lodge No.1648 Alabama
Efforts are ongoing to recover the hacked page



Activities Committee:
Tom Rathz: Chairman
Who will be HERE?



Lodge #1648

Activities Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 11/01/2023

6:00 pm

Have you ever wanted to help organize Elks events like...

- Flag Day
- Elks Memorial Day
- Hoop Shoot
- Soccer Shoot
- Drug Awareness
- Dances
- Holidays
- *And many more...*

The Lodge Needs You!

Sign up by clicking the link: <https://bit.ly/ElksAOI>

Please Include Suggested Activities in the "Comments"

We'll discuss them at the Meeting



- *Open the camera on your phone*
- *Point your phone at the QR Code*
- *Click the Link that pops up & Sign-up*

This will place you on the list to receive email notifications directly for all the upcoming activities and events. The sooner you sign up, the faster you'll get the meeting agenda.

Your participation will help in the Lodge's fundamental needs of revenue, other member participation and retention, and fulfilling one of the Elks founding principles of Charity by participating in those youth or other community events prescribed by the Grand Lodge.



Grants Committee:
 Scott Stokes: Chairman
 Barbara Stokes
 Christy Johnson
 Jerry Skonieczny
 Anna Skonieczny
 Cathy Kulas

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

- **Spotlight Grant** for HAPPI Clinic: all items except the newborn and size one diapers. We anticipate assembly of the bags on November 15th at the Lodge room at 5:00 pm.
- **Beacon Grant** for Huntsville Learning Center (HLC). We have been working with Ray, the new President of HLC and currently have all items purchased and waiting for arrival. Once the items are received, we will need volunteers to assemble and deliver. There will be two separate assembly and delivery for HLC due to the long lead time of some items. First assembly and delivery will be TBD (within 2 weeks).
- **Gratitude Grant:** we are waiting on final numbers from both Buckhorn and Morris on the number of students in need for Christmas break backpacks. Once the number is established, we will begin price comparisons etc. Goal is to have the bags packed on December 3rd at the Lodge at 5:00pm. Delivery to the two schools will be determined by each school before Christmas break.



ER Message: Continued from page 1

My glass is overflowing, and I encourage all of you to get involved, whether attending a short Board Meeting, a Lodge Meeting, or looking at committees and leadership. Your lodge needs you now. Ask me how!

Until next time,

Mike A. West

Exalted Ruler: Huntsville Elks Lodge No.1648

**One last bit of business before I finish. Last month, I misspoke in using someone's name and a correlation to an event. I had no malice in my words and spoke to them yesterday at length, and I believe that my apology directly to him was accepted.*

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Membership

The Elks Membership Committee conducts interviews (5:30pm) and orientation (6:30pm) on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Last month, we saw one candidate get initiated, interviewed five candidates, and are awaiting orientation.

We currently have ten new candidates for interviews this month. The Membership Committee enjoys getting to know the new candidates so please continue to propose candidates. Please remind candidates to check their email during the membership process.

The Membership Committee would like to thank everyone who took the Membership Survey! The response/feedback was excellent. We are currently compiling the information to be presented to the BOD at the next meeting.

We hope to see you all around the Lodge and invite any member to attend our meetings. All are welcome!

Membership Committee:

Kevin Butler: Chairman
Cathy Kulas
Drenda King
Tracy L. Swayne
Jeffrey Swayne
Amanda Minton



Welcome New Elk Member
Ed Brown

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

November

02 Mason Daniel; Willis Diener; John Tarver; Paula Yates
03 James Gates
05 Nancy Stuart
06 Jeremy Jackson
07 Lorren Bailey
08 William Kling
10 Roger Marcus
11 R E Burns
12 Betty Mahone
14 Sandra Campbell; Tim Jamieson; Randall L Morris
15 Judith Chassay; Richard Oliver
16 Susan Blevins; Russel McDonald
17 Sarah Reed; Nancy Wolfe



18 Patti Johnson
19 Gregory B Gray; Michelle Siminski
21 William T Blue; Martha Collins; Louie E Tippet
22 Melvis Chambliss; David Dillingham; Jannette Jones;
Lee Kinzer May; Carl Patterson
23 Linda Bradley; Wendell Deweese; Margaret Duffey;
John Reynold Duncan; James Moore; Kerri Spivak
24 James Adams; Edwin Hall
25 Gwenda Hall-Aaberg
26 Russell Grimes; Rick A Schwarze
27 Harry B Mensch
29 Stephen Ellzey; Jeremy Hargrove
30 Helen Mitchell



Veterans Day Parade
11/11 @ 11:00 am.
Click for details



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

- ★ **Veterans Thanksgiving Dinner at the Lodge**
November 22 (Wednesday) the day **before** Thanksgiving at 5:00 pm. Elks Members are asked to provide Pot Luck food/items and eat & visit with the Veterans.

* Music *

2 Sign-Ups Please

Food/Items to Bring: <https://bit.ly/VetsPotLuck>

RSVP Headcount: <https://bit.ly/ElksDinnerRSVP>

or email, call/text Tracy & she'll sign you up
TracyLSwayne@Swaywin.com
(713) 824-9086

Please note that the language on the RSVP is focused toward Veterans/Families...but we'll use this for them AND Elks Members/Families

- ★ **Veterans Angel Tree for Christmas**
The Tree will be up soon at the Lodge

Two (2) dates to remember...

December 1st – gifts must be at the Lodge
Your Veterans Committee will be sure each Gift Tag item is there and purchase any gifts from Tags that were not chosen – *we hope all the Tags/Veterans have an "Angel"*. We'll deliver all the gifts to Tut Fann by 12/4 – *the date they set for us.*

~ **Please return the Tag with the gift(s)** ~

DO NOT wrap Angel Tree Gifts...use a gift bag and tissue paper. Tut Fann will label each gift for its recipient, then put it back in the bag **you provided** for the...

December 15th Christmas Party at Tut Fann. Elks are invited to the party!!!
Refreshments will be served in the large "Day Room". Visit with Veterans and watch them open their gifts from **YOU!**

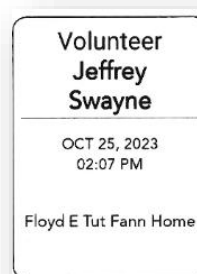
- ★ **Snack Basket for Tut Fann** ➤ **Monthly**
Look for the Tut Fann Snack Basket at the Lodge. Collections will be taken monthly for the Tut Fann residents to enjoy...and **they LOVE snacks**. Some ideas are: Pork Rhinds; Beef Jerky; Chips, Little Debbie Snacks; Rice Crispies; Nutter Butter; Cheez-It Crackers, and any kind of Candy.

The Veterans play **Bingo on Monday** for full size candy bars...and their library is in need of large print, hardback books.

Drop these in the **Snack Basket** and we'll get them to Tut Fann each month.

- ★ **Veterans Court** – ER West, Jeffrey, and Tracy attended Judge Ruth Ann Hall's **Veterans Court** on Friday, October 20th and met some of the Mentors, and leadership from Wellstone Health, and Bradford Health Services. All these entities work together to help our Veterans.

- ★ **Backpacks** – the Backpacks (*that have been in ER West's office*) were delivered to Wellstone on Thursday, October 19th. Wellstone works with **Veterans Court**. Their Social Workers will deliver the Backpacks when they do Veterans Home Visits. Tracy was assured that each one will be in the hands of a Veteran & family. *See page 3 for photo.*



If you're going to Tut Fann, allow a little extra time to "Check-In". You'll use a kiosk where you answer ~ 15 questions...and it even takes your temperature. A Badge is printed that you'll wear while at the facility.

Elks Volunteer Sign-Up

This Sign-Up is also posted in the Lodge on the Bulletin Boards, by the Board Room door, and by the Menu at the end of the bar



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

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



November 2023 Elks Calendar

Do you know a Veteran that would like to come to the **Thanksgiving Dinner**?
Please ask them to RSVP at: <https://bit.ly/ElksDinnerRSVP>

Meeting Night




Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
 <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Veterans *Angel Tree*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select a Tree Tag Buy the Item(s) <li style="background-color: yellow;">Return with Tag by December 1st 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">1</p> <p>Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p <i>Activities Mtg: 6p</i> Texas Hold 'em 6:30p</p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">2</p> <p>Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Trivia: 7p</p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">3</p> <p>Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">4</p> <p>Open: 2p Kitchen: Closed <i>Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza</i></p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">5</p> <p>Open: 2p Kitchen: Closed</p> 	
<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">6</p> <p>Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Bingo: 6p</p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">7</p> <p>Open: 4p Kitchen: Closed <i>House Mtg: 5:30</i> <i>Membership Mtg: 5:30p</i></p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">8</p> <p>Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p</p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">9</p> <p>Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Trivia: 7p</p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">10</p> <p>Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">11</p> <p>Open: 2p Kitchen: Closed <i>Hot Dogs & Pizza</i> Veterans Day</p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">12</p> <p>Open: 2p Kitchen: Closed</p>
<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">13</p> <p>Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Bingo: 6p <i>Veterans Mtg: 6p</i></p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">14</p> <p>Open: 4pm Kitchen: Closed <i>Board Mtg: 6p</i> <i>Lodge Mtg: 7p</i></p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">15</p> <p>Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Grant: 5:00p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p</p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">16</p> <p>Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Trivia: 7p</p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">17</p> <p>Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">18</p> <p>Open: 2p Kitchen: Closed <i>Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza</i></p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">19</p> <p>Open: 2p Kitchen: Closed</p>
<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">20</p> <p>Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Bingo: 6p</p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">21</p> <p>Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p <i>House Mtg: 5:30</i> <i>Membership Mtg: 5:30p</i></p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">22</p> <p>Open: 4p Vets Dinner: 5p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p</p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">23</p> <p>Lodge Closed</p> <p style="color: orange; font-size: 1.5em;">Happy Thanksgiving</p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">24</p> <p>Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">25</p> <p>Open: 2p Kitchen: Closed <i>Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza</i></p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">26</p> <p>Open: 2p Kitchen: Closed</p>
<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">27</p> <p>Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Bingo: 6p</p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">28</p> <p>Open: 4p Kitchen: Closed <i>Board Mtg: 6p</i> <i>Lodge Mtg: 7p</i></p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">29</p> <p>Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p</p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">30</p> <p>Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Trivia: 7p</p> 	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: red; font-style: italic;">Please drop-off Snacks for Tut Fann Veterans</p> 		

By the New Elks Lodge #1648 Newsletter Committee