



Charity ★ Justice ★ Brotherly Love ★ Fidelity

The **ELKS**
Call

Huntsville Elks Lodge #1648

Newsletter

January 2024

Exalted Ruler's Message

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It's been a magical time of year at your Elks Lodge. I appreciate all ten new members initiated in late November and all the great numbers of new Elks all year. I hope you remember your obligation and live up to The Elks credo: Elks Care, Elks Share! New and tenured members, it's fun to hang out with friends in the lodge club; let's not forget our mission is service to our community.

We kicked off December with our Elks Memorial, which honors our absent members in a highly touching service. Thanks to the lodge officers who attended, especially all those members who participated in your presence. A special thank you to those who stayed after and packed the 100 (40lb) nutrition bags for underserved elementary and high school students. It's amazing how you'll see in photos here and on our Elks Facebook page those same hard-working faces giving back to those in the community. This was after Elks supported 75 newborn babies and their underserved mothers in conjunction with HAPPI Clinic. Elks turned out to deliver those 100 nutrition packs to the elementary and high school students who lacked

food during the Christmas break when schools did not provide it. We also delivered essential non-perishables to our community partner Harvest Youth Club when kids left for Christmas school break, and their pantry was utterly bare. We fixed that!

Veterans are a significant part of Elks work in our community. We serve them after they have served us. With truckloads of gifts donated by you through the Angel Tree, all the residents received a Christmas gift. Several of us were fortunate to attend their Christmas Party. We saw veterans receive our gifts, but more importantly, we talked with them, and I sincerely believe they appreciated as much or more as the gifts. I hope 2024, you'll join me as I support our Elks Veterans Team. I discovered at that visit that time spent with these men and women who did the hard stuff was most fulfilling to me. Join me in that endeavor to visit, play cards, and share a beer with them if they wish in this new year.

Christmas annual parties were plentiful at the lodge. It was a time to celebrate the meaning of Christmas and fellowship with one another. We shared food cooked from our homes and stories and laughter. We celebrated all the work that those of you who volunteered this year for one of the community service projects I've been mentioning all year. But most importantly, we remembered the gift at Christmas: love and God's gift to us all. We are now in a new year! Many of us think we must lose weight and have many other resolutions for the new year. Please consider also joining us this year with our community service work. We've got Huntsville Police Officer meals going out this month. Ask how you can help. There are so many more projects coming back around again this year.

Lastly, please get involved with your lodge and attend meetings this year. Next month, February is a big month with the elections of new officers. We are deciding now what our lodge's future will be in those votes. You'll see some new members rise to the top in nominations; I hope you'll support them. We must always look to our future and what we leave behind for those that come after us. Let's get it better than we found it... that can occur through your participation in those elections.

Elks exist to serve others!

Mike A. West

Exalted Ruler
Huntsville Elks Lodge No.1648



Veterans Angel Tree

Thank You to All the "Elk Angels" that Made Christmas Extra Special for the Tut Fann Veterans!

173 Tag Requests Fulfilled



From left: Tracy L. Swayne, Kathy DavisChesser, Jeffrey Swayne, Tavia Gay (Tut Fann Activities Director), Janice West & Mike West

~ Party at Tut Fann ~

Veterans Opened Your Gifts

All the Elks that attended were blessed beyond measure, visiting with Veterans from every branch of our military.

Thank you, ER Mike West, April Wiggins, Max Thompson, Julie Brakefield & Karen Anderson



Delivery to Tut Fann



"Elks Exist to Serve Others!"



Christmas Carols ~ Entertainment ~

April & Her Dad



Elks Provide Food to Curb Child Hunger



Elks packed & delivered 100 x 40 lb = 4,000 lbs ➤ **Kids Food Packs!** These bridge the gap in nourishment for underserved children at [Morris Elementary School](#) in Huntsville and [Buckhorn High School](#) in Madison County during the Christmas break.

Elks Made a Difference in Children's Lives!

* Thank you, Greg Turner...not an Elk, but handles the Lodge Lawn Maintenance. Without his help, we would not have been able to accommodate 3 truck-loads of Food Packs.



Thank You to EVERYONE that Helped Feed the Children



ER West delivered food to the [Harvest Youth Club \(HYC\)](#) pantry, which was found totally bare – just when kids are out of school for Christmas Break.

Elks Care, Elks Share is more than a slogan...

Elks Impact Lives



- [Grants Committee](#)

Elks Memorial Service 2023

Those that passed since the last Service

We remember our absent members.
Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken.



Matthew Bradford

Ken Coulter

Don Harbin

Judy Harbin

Billy Herndon

Lynne Horst

Rex McCrary

Gary Murfield

Levoy Smartt

Edward Sorden

Greg Welch

Sherry Yarbrough



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

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
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 Christmas Dinner



Thank you, **Kyle Rone**, for doing a fantastic job as DJ for great dancing & lights/fog ambiance

Elks Employee Party



Elks Employees Are Appreciated

- Thank you to all the Elks that donated for the Employee Bonuses
- Greg Welzyn provided a wonderful dinner for Elks Employees
- Thank you, Gwenda, for selling tickets
- Marianne Welzyn, 2-time Huntsville Elks Scholarship recipient baked pies for the Employees and worked as Bar Back
- ER West, and Greg & Rachel Welzyn worked the bar to give Employees a well-deserved break



Elks Dirty Santa

Ugly Sweater Contest



Winner!



Kevin kept everything on track & got a "HOT" gift



Committee Reports



House Committee

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

- Bills and taxes against the Club are paid.
- Monthly inventory of the kitchen and bar completed on schedule.
- Repairs: the hand sink in the kitchen has been replaced.
 - The Club Manager, April Wiggins, and Employees send thanks to Elks Members who donated wine, liquor, and purchased Raffle Tickets for the Wheelbarrow Raffle. Proceeds of the Raffle were given to Employees for their yearly bonuses.
 - Thanks to ER Mike West, and Greg & Rachel Welzyn for tending bar during the Employee Christmas Party.
 - Special thanks to Chairman Greg Welzyn for donating and grilling delicious chicken and ribs for the Employee Party.
 - Winners of the Raffle: Melissa Ryman (liquor) and Tom Pluth (wine).



Melissa Ryman is having a Very Merry Christmas!



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

Happy New Year!
from your House Committee



Reviews Financial Reporting for Accuracy

All quarterly audits are up to date. Look for new information in the New Year.

Your Audit Committee wishes you all a healthy, joyful, and prosperous 2024

Audit & Accounting Committee

Kathy DavisChesser: Chair
Nan Stuart
Alan McClendon
Butch Buffaloe
Mike Wisner



2024



Fraternal/Activities Committee

Tom Rathz: Chairman
Committee forming

We had quite a lot of Lodge activities this past month. Thanks to all that helped and participated. We have volunteers to restart the **Hoop Shoot** next year.

**Next Fraternal/Activities Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 4th at 5:30 pm**

We will be discussing upcoming events such as...

- Chili Cookoff
- Mardi Gras party, Sat. Feb 10
- St. Patty Day Party, Sat. Mar 16.

December Elks Activities

- Elks Memorial Service
- Elks Christmas Dinner
- Elks Employee Party
- Elks Dirty Santa

[See photos on pages 4-6](#)

- Elks New Year's Eve **Tropical Party** – watch for New Year's Party photos next month



Grants Committee

Scott Stokes: Chairman
Barbara Stokes
Jerry Skonieczny
Anna Skonieczny

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

Feeding Children During the Christmas Break. [See page 3](#)

On December 3, 2023, Elks members and friends packed 100 bags of non-perishable food items for the underserved students of [Morris Elementary School](#) and [Buckhorn High School](#).

Thank you, ER Mike West; Janice West; Gwenda Hall; Randy Morris; Brenda Morris; Joan Speegle; Betty Mahone; Don Horst; Bruce Kehan; Greg Turner; John Wallace; Kevin Butler; Louis Tumminello; Tom Rathz; Peg Rathz; Max Thompson; Christina Skonieczny; Anna Skonieczny, Jerry Skonieczny; and Cathy Kulas.

On December 8, 2023, 50 food packs were delivered to each school. While at Buckhorn High School, ER Mike West discovered that their food pantry was empty so it was decided that half of the non-perishable food items that were remaining (which would fill a pickup truck) would be delivered to Buckhorn High School for their food pantry. The other half went to [Harvest Youth Club](#).

The Madison County School System declared the Elks Club a Community Partner in their Newsletter.

This concludes the purchases and actions for **Gratitude Grant**. Barbara Stokes will be submitting the final report.

After the Holidays, the furniture, table, and chairs will be delivered to the [Huntsville Learning Center](#). We are just waiting for the chairs to be delivered.

We were able to acquire all the items the Huntsville Learning Center requested because one of the suppliers was willing to work within our budget.

Once all the items are received and delivered, this will conclude the **Beacon Grant**.



Community • Friendship • Charity



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 (5:30 pm) and orientation (6:30 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: Adam Dixon; John Meredith; Marc Goldmon; Diane Bryan; Jeff Retzke, Frances Morris; David Little; Pamela McGough; Cade Johnston. Not pictured: David Emerick

January Birthdays

- 01 Greg Jennings; James B. Schrimsher
- 02 William Borgos; John Davis
- 04 Walker McGinnis
- 05 Buzzy Byrom; Christina Skonieczny; Roy H. Turner
- 06 Anneliese Bonds; Bradford Sterling
- 07 Lynn Benefield; John M. Henriksen; Barbara Tran
- 10 John Heath
- 12 James Boyle
- 14 Richard Thomas
- 15 Shaun Canter; Owen Smith
- 16 Andrew Ledbetter



- 17 Cotton Demarcus
- 19 John Meredith
- 20 Thomas Barthel; Dana Wilbanks
- 21 Lee Leschinski
- 22 Cyndi Hughes; Edward Limback; Tom Rathz
- 23 William Frazier
- 24 Patricia Lamon
- 25 Roger Davis; David Little; Mark E. Pullen
- 26 Larry Woodruff
- 27 Vaughn R. Honeycutt
- 28 Gregory Barrett; Kevin Butler





Veterans Committee

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

★ **“Angel Tree” for Tut Fann Veterans**

Thank you to every Elk that participated to make this an extra special Christmas for our Veterans at Tut Fann. [See page 2](#)

★ Tut Fann *Thank You Letter* for Angel Tree gifts, wheelchair donation, and snacks - [Click Here](#).

★ Tut Fann *Thank You Letter* for Thanksgiving Turkeys and snacks donations - [Click Here](#).

★ Join us at the **Veterans Committee Meeting January 8th at 6:00 pm.**

★ **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.**

If you like ‘em – they’ll like ‘em.

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

Elks are delighted to participate in the *Tournament of Roses Parade*
January 1, 2024

The Elks float showcases commitment to community service, friendship, and charity.
The hope is to spread awareness about Elks good work and values.

For more information, click [here](#)

Elks Volunteer Sign-Up

Committee Chairs will contact you directly

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. Click [here](#) or below to Sign-Up...

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



ALABAMA ELKS MID-YEAR STATE MEETING AT PERDIDO BEACH RESORT

JANUARY 18 – 21, 2024

PERDIDO BEACH RESORT – ORANGE BEACH, ALABAMA

27200 PERDIDO BEACH BLVD., ORANGE BEACH, AL 36561

Limited \$109 room rate while they last, Phone 800-634-8001, Booking ID-19384

Cancellations for a full refund must be made a full 5 days in advance of reservations

<https://www.perdidobeachresort.com/>

The cutoff date for discounted hotel reservations is Monday, December 18, 2023

The cutoff date for ADVANCE REGISTRATION is Wednesday, December 20, 2023

ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS ALWAYS FAVORED

BADGE PICK-UP BEGINS AT 4:00 PM ON JANUARY 18TH AT THE HOTEL

Please type or print the below registration information for each member (SPOUSES THAT ARE MEMBERS MUST FILL OUT A SEPARATE FORM) planning to attend the Alabama Elks Association Meeting. You may copy additional sheets, if necessary.

(Some lodges pay the registration fee for their members and/or guests. If this pertains to you, return the form and any remittance to your lodge Secretary. After receiving all of the forms and prior to the registration cutoff date, your lodge Secretary should forward complete forms with total remittance to the registration address below.)

Lodge Name : _____ **Lodge #:** _____ **Member #:** _____

Member Name: _____

Current Title: _____

Are you a State Officer? Yes No Are you a PSP? Yes No Are you a PER? Yes No

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: () _____ **E-mail:** _____

Name of Non Member Spouse, (Spouses that are members must fill out a separate form), and Guests Attending:

Spouse: _____

Guest: _____

Guest: _____

Please indicate below the total number of people in your party and the registration amount enclosed:

NUMBER ATTENDING	ADVANCE REGISTRATION LUNCHEON GUARANTEED	LATE REGISTRATION LUNCHEON NOT GUARANTEED	TOTAL AMOUNT
	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$

Make checks payable to: Alabama Elks Association

(Convention Fee Refunds will be made only for requests received 72 hours prior to First Business Session)

Mail your completed registration forms and fees to:

Alabama Elks Convention Registration

15232 Troon Drive

Foley, AL 36535

Questions: louorefice@att.net

Click [here](#) for Registration Form to print

January 2024 Elks Calendar

Meeting Night
★



Chicken Buffet is Back
2nd Thursday each month

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	
Open: 3:30p ¹ Kitchen: 4-8p 	Open: 4p ² Kitchen: <i>Closed</i> House Mtg: 5:30 Membership Mtg: 5:30p ★	Open: 4p ³ Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p 	Open: 4p ⁴ Kitchen: 5-8:30p Activities Mtg: 5:30 Trivia: 7p ★ 	Open: 4p ⁵ Kitchen: 5-9p 	Open: 2p ⁶ Kitchen: <i>Closed</i> Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza 	Open: 2p ⁷ Kitchen: <i>Closed</i>	
Open: 4p ⁸ Kitchen: 4-8p Bingo: 6p Veterans Mtg: 6p ★ 	Open: 4p ⁹ Kitchen: <i>Closed</i> Board Mtg: 6p Lodge Mtg: 7p ★	Open: 4p ¹⁰ Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p 	Open: 4p ¹¹ Kitchen: 5-8:30p Trivia: 7p Chicken Buffet 	Open: 4p ¹² Kitchen: 5-9p 	Open: 2p ¹³ Kitchen: <i>Closed</i> Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza 	Open: 2p ¹⁴ Kitchen: <i>Closed</i>	
Open: 4p ¹⁵ Kitchen: 4-8p Bingo: 6p MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY 	Open: 4pm ¹⁶ Kitchen: <i>Closed</i> House Mtg: 5:30 Membership Mtg: 5:30p ★	Open: 4p ¹⁷ Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p 	Open: 4p ¹⁸ Kitchen: 5-8:30p Trivia: 7p 	Elks Mid-Year Meeting: Perdido Beach Resort 		Open: 2p ²⁰ Kitchen: <i>Closed</i> Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza 	Open: 2p ²¹ Kitchen: <i>Closed</i>
Open: 4p ²² Kitchen: 4-8p Bingo: 6p 	Open: 4p ²³ Kitchen: <i>Closed</i> Board Mtg: 6p Lodge Mtg: 7p ★	Open: 4p ²⁴ Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p 	Open: 4p ²⁵ Kitchen: 5-8:30p Trivia: 7p 	Open: 4p ²⁶ Kitchen: 5-9p 	Open: 2p ²⁷ Kitchen: <i>Closed</i> Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza 	Open: 2p ²⁸ Kitchen: <i>Closed</i>	
Open: 4p ²⁹ Kitchen: 4-8p Bingo: 6p 	Open: 4p ³⁰ Kitchen: <i>Closed</i>	Open: 4p ³¹ Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered Monthly <p>Please drop-off Snacks for Tut Fann Veterans</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

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