



Huntsville Elks Lodge #1648

Newsletter

December 2023

Exalted Ruler's Message

Thanksgiving has come and gone and we have some much within our lodge to be grateful for; its people. We not only lift up those in our community but also within our four walls as well. A Elks message has always been "Elks Care and Elks Share." This year we shared a Thanksgiving dinner for invited veterans that wouldn't have enjoyed a home cooked meal. We as Elks came together the night before Thanksgiving and you shared your favorite dishes for all to enjoy but also the veterans within our membership. It was a night I'll never forget sitting with a table of veterans from many branches to talk with them and watch them enjoy their dinner.

In November your lodge also provided 75 baby bags filled with essentials for newborn babies and their underserved mothers. A gallant effort by the grants team and you that contributed and helped fill and deliver three truck loads of bags and boxed goods to our partner Happi Clinic. You know I could go on with other projects we accomplished in November but it's time to look ahead and not behind us.

It's now December and where has this year gone? But we've got a schedule filled with many lodge activities for you as members to enjoy. Our annual Christmas Party, Dirty Santa and of course our Staff Christmas Party. I encourage you all to bring a bottle of good liquor and wine to add to the wheelbarrow. This wheelbarrow is being raffled off for the sole purpose of providing our wonderful staff that serve you seven days a week a Christmas Bonus. Contribute a bottle and buy raffle tickets today to win the whole wheelbarrow! A winner will be drawn at The Staff Christmas Party where we serve the staff that evening, participate!

It's a special time of year where we will also start assembling Kids for Christmas Food Packs. These packs sustain underserved elementary and high school students in a city and county school. This Herculean effort is once again spearheaded by the grants team. But unlike the baby essentials last month we need everyone to contribute your time. We need assistance with stocking the assembly line, separating it and then assembling the bags themselves. This was one of our lodges largest and well attended community projects last year packing 250 bags. We need your help again this year and please ask a friend, doesn't have to be an Elk to participate. Let's share with others exactly what Elk's are beyond the walls of our lodge club. Get involved it will fill your heart with the Christmas spirit more than writing a check ever will, I promise you that!

Christmas is upon us and it's a season to also be thankful and share. We have members that don't have family ties like we have, invite them to your celebration. Likewise that neighbor or coworker that shares the same potential loneliness, let you be a light for them this Christmas. Your light will be brighter for it, I assure you.

Lastly Christmas was a gift to us all. As Elks the first question asked of you when you took your oath; do you believe in God. Elks are not a religious organization but our foundation is that of God and The American Flag. There's a reason for the season that I and many believe to be true and that a child was born in Bethlehem. He was the Son of God and wanted nothing but the best for us all. So in the very spirit of Christmas open your hearts and your minds to all the unimaginable. For at the Huntsville Elks Lodge we are but an instrument in Gods works.

I'm grateful to each and every one of you reading this message of hope. From our family to yours, Merry Christmas and may the New Year bring you joy and happiness beyond your wildest expectations.

Elks exist to serve others!

Mike A. West

Exalted Ruler

Huntsville Elks Lodge No.1648



The day before Thanksgiving was very special for local Veterans and their families – with Elks &

All enjoyed a wonderful meal provided by Elks Lodge #1648 Members.

their families.

Special thanks to Paula Yates, Sally Culver & Sarah Reed for making "Veteran Appreciation Bags". Flag themed silicone bracelets were also given to each Veteran. These were just little things to say a BIG THANK YOU and let each Veteran know

Elks Care!



See Elks <u>Facebook page</u> for more photos

Elks - Veterans Dinner

Thank you to those that provided the meal, fixin's, dessert, drinks, signed-in guests, served & made everyone feel welcome!

Carol Ambrose Jessie Pollard Kathy DavisChesser Greg Welzyn Thomas & Peg Rathz Mike & Janice West Mary Jane Anderson Stephen & Vicki Grimes Craig Brower Cathy Knowles Anna Skonieczny April Wiggins Bob Bukovac Andrea Mastin Jeffrey & Tracy Swayne Paula Yates Randy Morris Sandy & Alex Campbell Max & Glenda Thompson

James (our Kitchen Guru) - and all those whose names are not listed ...

Lynn Vanpelt

Tom Pluth



ER Mike West gave a heartfelt welcome followed by a special meal prayer by Thomas Rathz



Melvin & Rita Chambless





- Veterans Committee

Elks Deliver 3 Truck-Loads of Items to HAPPI Health

Your <u>Grants Committee</u> - with Elks volunteers, delivered 3 truck-loads of items to HAPPI Health. Elks collected and provided badly needed essentials to help underserved mothers and their newborn babies. The HAPPI Health empty storage room was filled to capacity with 76 pre-packed baby bags and boxed items.

"Elks exist to serve others!"







Elks Provide Thanksgiving Turkeys for Tut Fann

BPOE Lodge #1648 provided 20 frozen turkeys to feed all the Tut Fann Veteran residents for their Thanksgiving Dinner.

Lots of Snacks were also delivered.





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





Elks Lodge Officers 2023-2024

Exalted Ruler Mike West	Trustees
Leading KnightKathy Pierce	5 Year Louis Tumminello
Loyal KnightScott Stokes	4 YearMary Cannon
Lecturing KnightJulie Schenck-Brown	3 YearPhillip Towry
SecretaryNicole Anderson	2 Year Jan Abbott
TreasurerJanice West	1 Year Jay Lockridge

Trustees	
	ChaplainSally Culver
rMary Cannon	Esquire Peggy Rathz
rJan Abbott	TilerKevin Butler
rJay Lockridge	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

Committee Reports



House Committee

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

- Monthly inventory of the Club kitchen and bar are completed.
- Bills against the Club are paid and current.
- Club repairs included cleaning of kitchen grease trap and preliminary investigation into kitchen floor drainage issues.

Many thanks to all the Members who volunteer with the Club operations and special events.

We are asking for everyone to support our Club employees this year and participate in the Wheelbarrow Liquor Raffle. Please buy your tickets from the Club bartenders. Our Employee Christmas Party is coming up fast on Sunday December 17th so please get your tickets now!

Lodge is closed on Christmas day, Monday, December 25th. *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



Please Donate Liquor & Wine See Gwenda Hall for Tickets to

Win it ALL!



Reviews Financial Reporting for Accuracy

Audit and Accounting Committee recently completed the Quarterly report which was submitted to the Exalted Ruler (ER) and reported on the Lodge floor.

The Committee watches closely the overall financials in the Lodge and within the Club.

Welcome Butch & Mike!

Audit & Accounting Committee

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



Join the fun!

ACTIVITIES Click **here** for flier to print

Activities Committee Tom Rathz: Chairman Committee forming

Lodge Activities

BPOE LODGE #1648

Elks Memorial Service Sunday, 12/03 @ 1:00pm

We honor Elks who passed this year. Invitations have been sent to spouses & families. Volunteers are needed to serve cake and drinks after the Service. Your attendance at this Service is what makes it honorable. This and Flag Day are the only mandatory Elks Events each year.



Contact: Tom Rathz

Elks Christmas Dinner Saturday, 12/16 @ 6:00pm

Bring your family & share some Christmas cheer & great food with your fellow Elks. RSVP ASAP with April & sign-up for pot-luck item(s) you wish to bring & share.

Dancing follows with Elk DJ Kyle Rone.



Employee Christmas Party

Sunday, 12/17 @ 5:00pm

Enjoy a night of fun with our fantastic Lodge Employees! Wheelbarrow of booze will be given away. Drawing at 7:00 pm.

Ask your Bartender for details.



Dirty Santa Party Tuesday, 12/19 @ 6:00pm

Potluck supper. Wear your nasty, ugly Christmas shirt/sweater/outfit to win Elks Bucks! Bring a "gift" valued at no more than \$30.

You don't want to miss this -

Contact: Tom Rathz

Contact: April Wiggins



Tropical New Year's Eve

Sunday, 12/31 @ 7:00pm - until...

Wear your favorite tropical attire, have some pizza, & dance in 2024 with Elk DJ Kyle Rone. 10:00 pm Countdown with the Caribbean.





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)

Seventy-six (76) bags containing at least 10 baby items each were delivered to HAPPI Clinic along with a pickup truckload of extra items which were mostly diapers. <u>See page 2</u>

This is one more bag than last year. Members and friends stepped up in donating extra diapers which are always in need; these were delivered for the HAPPI Clinic supply closet.

A special thank you goes to the member that crocheted the beautiful baby blanket for a HAPPI Clinic newborn.



The grocery list and supplier list has been developed. The Grant Committee will purchase the items starting the week of 27 November and deposit them at the Elks Lodge. On Sunday 3 December at 3:30 the Grant Committee with Elks volunteers will fill the bags to be delivered to Morris Elementary School and Buckhorn High School. Fifty (50) bags will go to each school on 8 December. The Committee will also purchase food items for the Christmas break for the Harvest Youth Group.

Another on-going project for the Grant Committee is the Huntsville Learning Center. It is the plan to delivered the furniture already received and put it together. Other requested furniture is to be received by the Grant Committee in January 2024.





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.

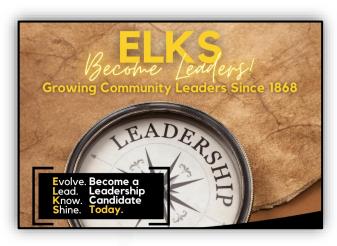
Last month, we saw twelve (12) candidates initiated, interviewed eleven (11) candidates and one (1) candidate awaiting orientation.

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.

We are taking the month of December off to rest, enjoy the Christmas Season and activities around the Lodge/Club.

The next interview and orientation sessions will be on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 with the next initiation on Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

We hope to see you all around the Lodge and invite any member to attend our meetings. All are welcome! When proposing a New Member, please ensure the Application is complete, signed, and includes the \$50 fee





- 01 Jonathan Roy
- 03 Tommy Battle; Peter Grant
- 04 Jeffrey Reed; John Towry; Paul E. Turmenne
- 05 Paul Lutz
- 06 Belle Kelly
- 07 Charles Jones; William J. Robinson; Rita Teal Ruple; Holly Womack
- 09 Michelle Ballard; Randy L. Cunningham
- 11 Glenn E. Davenport; Brandon Rogers
- 12 Don H. Carroll Jr.; Tommie Flannagan; Thomas B. Reed
- 13 Lois Peck
- 14 John Knott; Michael West

- 15 Angela Parks; Nancy Towry
- 17 JuLee Couch; Danny Robinson
- 18 Stephen Grimes
- 19 James Bartee; Nicholas Konovodoff
- 21 Raymond Funderburg; Cathy Kulas; Richard Woodcock
- 22 David Garner; Charles D. Hooper; Julie Schenck-Brown
- 24 Norman Samuel: Wanda Sanders
- 25 Carl D. Reed; Duane Wilson
- 26 Brenda Buxton; Tommy Dothard
- 27 Robert Salinas
- 30 Teresa Prestridge
- 31 Max Anderson







Veterans Committee

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

★ Elks provide Thanksgiving turkey for all Tut Fann Veteran residents

Jeffrey, Tracy, and Amanda delivered 20 frozen turkeys from Elks Lodge #1648 to Tut Fann on November 5th. "**The Great Veterans Turkey Hunt**" ended when Target provided the best price. *See page 3*

★ Elks: Veterans *day before* Thanksgiving Dinner on November 22nd

Elks Members graciously provided a wonderful meal for our Veteran honored guests and their families. Veterans were invited from Veterans Court, Wellstone, Bradford Health, Semper Fi Community Task Force, as well as others.

See page 2





Tracy & Kathy DC

Dessert Table

★ "Angel Tree" for Tut Fann Veterans

All the Angel Tree gifts are due back under the tree at the Lodge on December 1st. Your Veterans Committee will be sure each Gift Tag item is there and purchase any gifts from Tags that were not chosen.

Each Tag is a Veteran that needs an "Angel"

Join in for the *Christmas Party at Tut Fann on December 15th. 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!**

So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.

★ 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; Jerky; Chips, Oatmeal Pies; Little Debbie's; Cracker Jacks; Rice Crispies; Cupcakes; M&Ms; Nutter Butter;

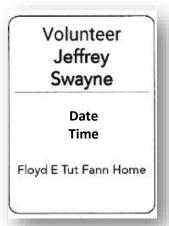
Cheez-It Crackers, and any kind of Candy.

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.

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

★ Volunteer — If you'd like to know what's happening and help our local Veterans, please fill out the Volunteer form by clicking here — or on page 10.



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.



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



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 'om off the trail" to the right answer.

or "throw 'em off the trail" to the right answer.

Karaoke: Fridays: Thank you, Tom Pluth and Janice West for running the show. The *gang* didn't want to

leave! Everyone had a great time!



Stay Safe

It's fall.

It's starting to get dark earlier.

Make sure you fill up your gas tank before sunset.

Keep an extra charger with you at all times.

Signing up for AAA is a GREAT idea!

Check your tires and oil.

No ATM runs in the evening.

Park in well lit areas.

Only unlock your doors if you are immediately getting out of your car.

Pay attention to your surroundings.

HEADS UP. PHONES DOWN.

Stay safe.



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...







Help Curb Child Hunger

December 3rd at 3:30 pm

Help fill 200 food packs for underserved school children that otherwise may not have food during the Christmas Break.

Last year, 41 volunteers packed all the bags and loaded them into trucks in one hour!

Meet in the Lodge Dining Room

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 18™ AT THE HOTEL

Please type or print the below registration information for <u>each member</u> (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. (Same 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.)

e Name :	Lod	Lodge #: M		Nember #:	
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(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

December 2023 Elks Calendar





Chicken Buffet is Back 2nd Thursday each month

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
	Tut Vet	Fann Fann erans ed Monthly	Can to be	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Angel Tree Gifts to Lodge with Tag(s)	Open: 2p Kitchen: Closed Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza	Open: 2p Elks Memorial Service: 1p Grants: Pack Food Bags: 3:30p
Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Bingo: 6p	Open: 4p Kitchen: Closed Board Mtg: 6p Lodge Mtg: 7p	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p	Open: 4p 7 Kitchen: 5-9p Trivia: 7p FEARL HARBOR	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Karooke	Open: 2p Kitchen: Closed Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza	Open: 2p Kitchen: Closed
Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Bingo: 6p	Open: 4pm Kitchen: Closed	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p	Open: 4p 14 Kitchen: 5-9p Trivia: 7p Chicken Buffet	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Christmas Party Tut Fann: 2p	Open: 2p Elks Christmas Dinner: 6p	Open: 2p Kitchen: Closed Employee Christmas Party: 5p Wheelbarrow Raffle: 7p
Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Bingo: 6p	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Dirty Sauta 6p	Open: 4p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Trivia: 7p	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p Karooke	Open: 2p Kitchen: Closed Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza	Open: 2p Kitchen: Closed Lodge Closes 6p Merry Christmas Eve
Closed 25 Mevu Christmas	Open: 4p 26 Kitchen: 5-9p	Open: 4p 27 Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p	Open: 4p 28 Kitchen: 5-9p Trivia: 7p	Open: 4p Kitchen: 5-9p STEAK NIGHT	Open: 2p Kitchen: Closed Serving Hot Dogs & Pizza	Open: 2p Kitchen: Closed Pizza DJ/Dance: 7p Toast @ 10p Tropical Theme

* Tips *

^{*} Click the Newsletter Header & here for the BPOE #1648 Website with all Newsletters



Facebook page

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By the New Elks Lodge #1648 Newsletter Committee
© 11/29/2023 for Distribution to Elks Members

^{*} Every underline LINKS to a website or area "Inside" the Newsletter. Happy Clicking: Back to top