



Charity ★ Justice ★ Brotherly Love ★ Fidelity

Huntsville Elks Lodge #1648

# Newsletter

March 2024

The **ELKS**  
Call

## Exalted Ruler's Message

### Inside

<a href="#">Elks Magazine - Online</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Camp ASCCA Elk Day</a> .....	4
<a href="#">Lodge Officers</a> .....	5
<a href="#">Committee Reports</a> .....	8
<a href="#">Sign-Up for VET Events</a> .....	10
<a href="#">Volunteer Sign-Up</a> .....	10
<a href="#">Calendar</a> .....	11

Hello, Fellow Elks,

It's a great day for your Lodge that so many folks turned out for the elections, and we had more candidates for office than in many years. Over these past two years, we've accomplished much in our community that I hope will continue for years to come. From infants and often young new moms to elementary and high school students, we've supported them with nourishment. We've awarded the largest group of children ever to go to Space Camp without cost to their families. "We've served the underserved in our community."

We've done so much with so little that it never would have occurred without the wonderful volunteers within our Lodge. Please keep volunteering and being what Elks are at the very heart of Elkdom: servants to others.

Our Military Veterans have reaped new benefits and rewards from the unselfish efforts of the Veterans Co-Chairs. Our Lodge members have reaped the benefits of a no-cost volunteer effort to create a beautiful and informative Newsletter like you're reading. There's no reason to return to spending thousands of dollars annually when it can be done for free.

Again, I hope our Lodge continues to gain momentum in all of the efforts above and not move backward. Past Exalted Ruler, Mike Davis invested much to bring our Lodge out of two challenging situations: Covid and our Lodge's probationary period. I'm very thankful that he was my role model and mentor these past four years that I served this Lodge as an officer.

There were many things said in the past months about my wife and me through rumors. Vicious things that I assure you aren't true, but truth always wins out in the long run. My Mom always used to say, "Let those things go because they were a reflection of the person saying them, not on myself." I hope you'll each take this to heart when you see us around the Lodge. I will address why our photo was in many community service photos. I can only explain that we were there for all of them, and I suppose the camera captured that.

There's much to be excited about in the coming twelve months. I'm confident your new Exalted Ruler, Patrick Mickle, will dedicate all the long hours necessary to lead this Lodge, just as Mike Davis and I and the Past Exalted Rulers did. I know he's a dedicated businessman who will put your Lodge first in all matters, and I will always be available to assist him whenever he calls upon me.

I thank my wife, Janice, for always standing beside me. On election night, it was fitting that we arrived at our stations and departed those stations at the same time. I wish to thank Leading Knight, Kathy Pierce; Loyal

Knight, and Scott Stokes for providing strong leadership whenever this Lodge or this ER called upon them. I enjoyed working closely with four-year Esquire Peg Rathz and our sweet Chaplain, Sally Ann Culver. I don't have the space to thank everyone who has served with me. I sum it up as The 2022 - 2024 Elks Dream Team. You know who you are because we've worked so often together, but thank you, every one of you.

I close this, my last ER message with the following, it was an honor to serve this Lodge over the past four years. These past two years as Your Exalted Ruler have been one heck of a life journey and lesson. Know that I'm like a hair in a biscuit; I will stay involved in our Lodge and all its meetings. I'll have my forever Past Exalted Ruler photo in the PER Hallway of Fame, so I will preside as those before me for generations.

Meanwhile, I am Your Exalted Ruler until March 31st; I will continue to serve to the fullest of my ability. "It's a piece of cake!" See y'all around the lodge!



**Mike A. West**

The Exalted Ruler  
Huntsville Elks Lodge No. 1648

**ELKS**  
*Become Leaders!*  
Growing Community Leaders Since 1868

**LEADERSHIP**

Evolve. Become a  
Lead. Leadership  
Know. Candidate  
Shine. Today.

Community • Friendship • Charity

elks.org

## Elks Magazine – Online Edition

If you would like to sign-up for the *Elks Magazine* online Edition, click [HERE](#). You'll see a "preview" and will need to sign-in to see the entire edition.



[February](#)

**February: Page 12 \* Note this information is not completely accurate. The money for Space Camp comes from the Cell Tower proceeds from the late Elks Member – Elmer Hargis Trust**

Huntsville, AL, Lodge held a community fundraiser and collected \$75,000 to help 113 fifth-grade students at Owens Cross Roads School and New Hope Elementary School attend Space Camp at the US Space and Rocket Center.



[March](#)



## 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 Huntsville Elks Facebook page.



Huntsville Elks Lodge No. 1648  
Alabama





**Elks Day – Camp ASCCA**  
July 27, 2024  
[Camp ASCCA](#)



# Welcome!

Camp ASCCA  
2024  
Elks Day



[campascca.org](http://campascca.org)

**JULY 27, 2024 - 11:00 A.M.**

Elk friends are invited for an Elks-sponsored lunch, tours, fellowship, and more. Come see what's new at Camp ASCCA!

**Elks Care – Elks Share**

**CAMP ASCCA**

PO Box 21  
5278 Camp ASCCA Dr.  
Jacksons Gap, AL 36861  
256-825-9226



RSVP TO: [dana@campascca.org](mailto:dana@campascca.org)

*Duck in Transylvania*

## Newly Elected Elks Lodge Officers 2024-2025

**Exalted Ruler** ..... Patrick Mickle  
**Leading Knight** ..... Stephen Grimes  
**Loyal Knight**.....Kevin Butler  
**Lecturing Knight**..... Davis Smallwood  
**Secretary** .....Nicole Anderson  
**Treasurer** .....Nan T. Stuart

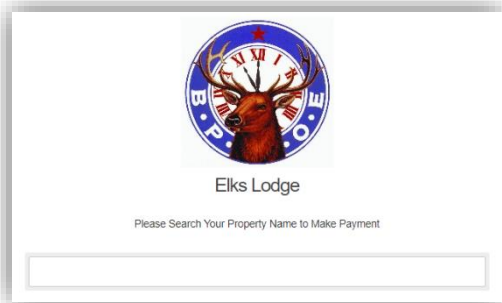
**Trustees**

**1 Year** ..... Jan Abbott  
**2 Year** ..... Phillip Towry  
**3 Year** ..... Mary Cannon  
**4 Year** ..... Louis Tumminello  
**5 Year** ..... Kathy Pierce

### Pay Lodge Dues Online

<https://search.revopay.com/elkslodge>

Lodge Door Locks Change April 1, 2024





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



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

Lodge Locator
Register
Login

In upper right corner ↑



Contact **Sally Culver**  
[sallyculver@bellsouth.net](mailto: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](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



## What is an Elk

With more than 1.1 million members in more than 2,100 Lodges nationwide, the **Elks** is one of the largest and most active fraternal organizations in the United States; consisting of American Citizens of the United States and its Territories.



The **Order of the Elks** is a benevolent organization, not a social or business club. It is dedicated to service to our communities and our Country. The various phases of our work, whether it be with the fortunate or unfortunate youths, care of the needy, Veterans Services, promoting of Americanism, or other benevolent activities, offer you a wide choice from which you may choose your areas of interest.

The **Order of Elks** was formally organized on February 16, 1868, in the City of New York, NY. Its full corporate name is "**Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.**" Its declared purposes are to practice its four cardinal virtues, **Charity – Justice – Brotherly Love – and Fidelity**; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; and to cultivate good fellowship

## Elks Celebrate

*February 16, 1868 – February 16, 2024*



Click [HERE](#) to see Media Alert from Grand Lodge

# 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.



# Mardi Gras Extravaganza

February 10, 2024

Click [HERE](#) for details



*Thank you, DJ Tim, for a GREAT Night*



*Click above for a short video. Some of our Elks know the "Sweetheart Shuffle"*



## Costume Contest



*Men: Craig Brower*



*Women: Amanda Minton*

## Winners



## Committee Reports



### House Committee

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

- Inventories for the kitchen and bar have been completed on schedule.
- House Committee continues to support Lodge events as well as private bookings.
- The Club budget for the upcoming year is in final development.

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

- 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 Davis-Chesser: Chair;** Nan Stuart; Alan McClendon; Butch Buffaloe; Mike Wisner

- All bank records and financial statements have been reviewed for January 2024.
- Items for extended review...
  - 1) Numerous automated buy/sell transactions in the Raymond James Investment account.
  - 2) Are the Jury Pool Capsules, (also used for daily entertainment) in compliance with the required June and December review for accuracy by the secretary and trustee.

The last requested Audit review in September 2023 revealed more than 206 Member Capsules missing.



### Grants Committee

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

The Grants Committee received an email from the Programs Department Elk National Foundation that the Elks Lodge #1648 has completed the **Beacon Grant, Spotlight Grant, and Gratitude Grant**. The Grants Committee also submitted the feedback survey as requested. That concludes the 2023 Grants Programs.

I would like to take this time to thank all the Elks Lodge #1648 volunteers and other community volunteers for a job well done.

The Grants Committee now looks forward to the 2024 Grants Programs which looks promising - continuing with the same effort and similar goals. We will be starting on April 1 with the **Freedom Grant** with assistance from the Veterans Committee to provide the information and insight on Veteran's projects and planned programs.

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

**THIS ADJECTIVE  
MEANING  
"CHARITABLE"  
IS THE "B" IN BPOE,  
THE FULL NAME OF  
THE ELKS LODGE**



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!

## March Birthdays



01 Stephen Simpson; John Wallace  
02 Patrick Mickle; John Weatherly  
03 Thomas Cash; Rodney Smith  
04 Craig Brower  
08 James M. Henley Jr.; Timothy O'Brien;  
Jeff Retzke  
09 Jan Abbott; Steve Casey  
10 Tony Wright  
11 Tom Hales; Bruce Niemeyer;  
Ken R. Williams  
12 Barbara Beyl; April Wiggins  
13 William House; Dan Tweedy



14 Walter Porter  
16 James Buchanan; Butch Perkins;  
William Sammons; Bud Steger  
19 George W Neal; Matthew Rainey  
20 Paula Fordham; Christopher Maloney;  
Kirk D. Ritter; M. Spragins  
21 Kathy Young  
24 Robert S. Cannon; James Garner;  
Katherine Henley; Barry Johnson  
25 Seymore Hopper; Stanley Rowe  
27 Robert Crook  
28 Kelly D. Stinson; Lillian Strickland  
31 Byrom O. Goodwin; Ashley Lorino



## 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 Davis-Chesser; Sallyanne Cos; Fran Morris

- Plans are in the works for a **St. Patty's Day Party** with doors open at 12:30pm on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Click [HERE](#) for details.
- Also being planned is an **Elks Chili Cookoff** in concert with [CASI](#) (Chili Appreciation Society International) State Competition on Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>. See posters around the Lodge or click [HERE](#) for details and registration.
- Volunteers are always welcome. Contact any of the hard workers on the Committee (above).

*~ Do you make a mean pot of chili ~*  
Or just want to taste the best...



Click [HERE](#) or Scan  
the QR Code for Details  
& Registration

[bit.ly/ElksChili2024](https://bit.ly/ElksChili2024)





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

★ **Bingo Buddy's Needed March 4<sup>th</sup> & March 25<sup>th</sup>.** Help a Tut Fann Veteran at the Lodge. Take dinner order, bring drinks, help with Bingo daubers & be a Buddy.

**Contact Tracy @ (713) 824-9086**

★ **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**

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

*Thank You to everyone that donated for the delivery on 2/27/2024*



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

*If you like 'em – they'll like 'em.*

★ **Tut Fann 1/31/2024 Thank You Letter: Click [HERE](#)**

★ Join us at the...

**Veterans Committee Meeting  
 March 18th<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.**

### [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

**Elks USA**

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



# March 2024 Elks Calendar



*Chicken Buffet  
2nd Thursday each month*

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
<p><i>Please drop-off Snacks for Tut Fann Veterans</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivered Monthly</li> </ul>				<p>Open: 4p <sup>1</sup> Kitchen: 5-9p</p> <p><b>STEAK NIGHT</b></p>	<p>Open: 2p <sup>2</sup> Kitchen: <i>Closed</i> Serving Hot Dogs &amp; Pizza</p>	<p>Open: 2p <sup>3</sup> Kitchen: <i>Closed</i></p>
<p>Open: 4p <sup>4</sup> Kitchen: 4-8p Bingo: 6p</p> <p><i>Tut Fann Veterans Dinner &amp; Bingo</i></p>	<p>Open: 4p <sup>5</sup> Kitchen: <i>Closed</i></p> <p><i>House Mtg: 5:30 Membership Mtg: 6:30p</i></p>	<p>Open: 4p <sup>6</sup> Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p</p>	<p>Open: 4p <sup>7</sup> Kitchen: 5-8:30p</p> <p><i>Activities Mtg: 6p</i></p> <p>Trivia: 7p </p>	<p>Open: 4p <sup>8</sup> Kitchen: 5-9p</p> <p><b>STEAK NIGHT</b></p>	<p>Open: 2p <sup>9</sup> Kitchen: <i>Closed</i> Serving Hot Dogs &amp; Pizza</p>	<p>Open: 2p <sup>10</sup> Kitchen: <i>Closed</i></p>
<p>Open: 4p <sup>11</sup> Kitchen: 4-8p Bingo: 6p</p>	<p>Open: 4pm <sup>12</sup> Kitchen: <i>Closed</i></p> <p><i>Board Mtg: 6p Lodge Mtg: 7p</i></p>	<p>Open: 4p <sup>13</sup> Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p</p>	<p>Open: 4p <sup>14</sup> Kitchen: 5-8:30p</p> <p>Trivia: 7p</p> <p><i>Chicken Buffet</i></p>	<p>Open: 4p <sup>15</sup> Kitchen: 5-9p</p> <p><b>STEAK NIGHT</b></p>	<p>Open: 12:30p <sup>16</sup></p> <p><i>Purchase...</i> Guinness, Pizza, Green Beer, Hot Dogs</p> <p><i>Join the Fun</i></p>	<p>Open: 2p <sup>17</sup> Kitchen: <i>Closed</i></p>
<p>Open: 4p <sup>18</sup> Kitchen: 4-8p Bingo: 6p</p> <p><i>Veterans Mtg: 6p</i></p>	<p>Open: 4p <sup>19</sup> Kitchen: <i>Closed</i></p> <p><i>House Mtg: 5:30 Membership Mtg: 6:30p</i></p>	<p>Open: 4p <sup>20</sup> Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p</p>	<p>Open: 4p <sup>21</sup> Kitchen: 5-8:30p</p> <p><i>Activities Mtg: 6p</i></p> <p>Trivia: 7p </p>	<p>Open: 4p <sup>22</sup> Kitchen: 5-9p</p> <p><b>STEAK NIGHT</b></p>	<p>Open: 12:30p <sup>23</sup></p> <p><b>EIKS/CASI</b></p>	<p>Open: 2p <sup>24</sup> Kitchen: <i>Closed</i></p>
<p>Open: 4p <sup>25</sup> Kitchen: 4-8p Bingo: 6p</p> <p><i>Tut Fann Veterans Dinner &amp; Bingo</i></p>	<p>Open: 4p <sup>26</sup> Kitchen: <i>Closed</i></p> <p><i>Board Mtg: 6p Lodge Mtg: 7p</i></p>	<p>Open: 4p <sup>27</sup> Kitchen: 5-9p Texas Hold 'em 6:30p</p>	<p>Open: 4p <sup>28</sup> Kitchen: 5-8:30p</p> <p>Trivia: 7p</p>	<p>Open: 4p <sup>29</sup> Kitchen: 5-9p</p> <p><b>STEAK NIGHT</b></p>	<p>Open: 2p <sup>30</sup> Kitchen: <i>Closed</i> Serving Hot Dogs &amp; Pizza</p>	<p><b>YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!</b></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)  
© 2/29/2024 for Distribution to Elks Members