



The ELKS Call



Vol. 41, No. 7

Huntsville Elks Lodge No. 1648

October, 2023

Exalted Ruler's Message



Today is a great time to be an Elk in Huntsville. Over the past two months we've initiated 17 new members and it's because new members are bringing in new members and those of you that have been around awhile continue to as well. We challenge new members recently initiated to step forward and work on committees and develop knowledge while being involved in your lodge. You are our future, that's why so many of those that lead now are paving the way for you, just as those that led before us. Get involved, ask me how!

Our membership committee is working to do due diligence in evaluating new applications and brings these men and women to the initiation stage. We are a Benevolent, Protective Order of Elks first, the lodge club is simply a bonus. One doesn't simply join the Elks, you are voted into the Elks by its members.

Congratulations to the Grants Committee, they've been busy in securing grants as you can see in this newsletter. We will be sending out the call for volunteers to help again this year to help others in our community. Speaking of our community, Leading Knight Kathy Pierce has set a plans and target for delivery of HPD Meals for all precincts and all three shifts. Elks raised over \$3000 for Huntsville Police Officers to have a hot and hearty meal. Watch for details and the call for volunteers.

Last but not least. I had planned a September 26 vote in our lodge meeting about whether our lodge would remain smoking or if the membership would change it to non-smoking. If changed to non-smoking; the game room off the club and the card room would both be designated smoking areas with vent fans to exterior and heating / cooling being independent in each are ideal. The rear patio would also be considered a designated smoking area.

I was contacted and corrected beforehand this vote I was making the same mistakes ER Byrom made six years ago by not following the Grand Lodge guidelines and the vote was neutralized. Therefore we are aligning ourselves to meet those guidelines and then the membership determines our lodge through a vote, it is then official and properly finalized. We will be openly communicating with all members as we go through this process. Your voice and vote will ultimately be heard.

Until next time... come to a Board Meeting and a Lodge Meeting if you wish to hear these things noted above before you read about them here!

Mike A. West
Exalted Ruler
Huntsville Elks Lodge No.1648

#BenevolentElksStrong

House Committee

Monthly inventory of the Club kitchen and bar have been completed. Bills against the Club are paid and current. Cleaning of the kitchen grills, stoves, ovens, fryers and vent hoods are completed. Repairs included repair of a water leak in kitchen, HVAC in dining room, walk-in freezer temperature problem and the security camera at Club entrance. Power outage affecting part of the Lodge due to faulty outside Huntsville Utilities equipment has been corrected. However, a problem with the Juke Box is still ongoing. Vietnam Legacy Riders were loaned 50 chairs for the National POW-MIA Recognition Day event at the Huntsville Veterans Memorial with all returned the same day. Thanks to the Members who volunteer with the Club operations and special events. Members with concerns or ideas regarding the Club may submit them in writing or attend a HC Meeting which is the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 5:30.

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

Happy Birthday

October Birthdays:

- 1 Beverly Boylan, Joe Mahan
- 5 Kyle Anderson, Lela Ruth Lavine, Louis Tumminello, Vickie Wright
- 6 Melissa Hays, Chris Lovoy, Maxwell Thompson
- 7 Jack Rogers, Randall Throneberry
- 9 Michael Wisner
- 10 Tricia Cornell, Mary Woodfin Villano
- 11 Kim Edmondson, Patricia Shadrick
- 12 Mike Childers, Louis Citrano
- 13 Thomas Hargrove, Ann Wallace
- 15 Bruce Foley
- 16 Danny Robinson
- 17 Ernie Marone, Bob Richmond
- 18 Sonya Teague
- 19 Daniel Banks
- 20 Sam Tumminello
- 21 Chris Kulas, Paul Woodfin
- 22 Mechelle Cheek, Walter Quick, Joseph Shaw, Wayne Wimberley
- 23 Joe Bob Whitt
- 29 Eric Olson, Bunky Rollins
- 30 Jimmie Musick, Kurt Taylor
- 31 Richard McElveen

Grants

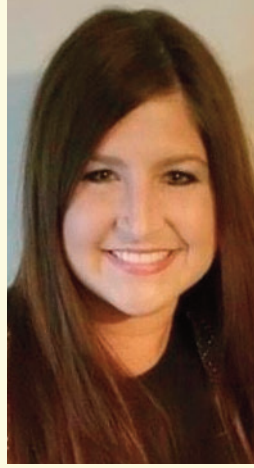
Huntsville Elks awarded from ENF, Elks National Foundation this year:

Beacon (\$4000) was awarded to Elks 1648 for The Huntsville Learning Center to expand its STEM learning classroom.

The Spotlight Grant (\$2000) will be used for the Elks Baby Shower for the Happi Clinic.

The Gratitude Grant (\$2500) will be used to purchase food for the "backpack program for Morris and Buckhorn schools.

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 ♥

Membership Committee

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 nine new members initiated. Currently, we have one candidate awaiting orientation and seven new candidates for interviews. 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 helped with lapsed membership and sent out an email/snail mail to all lapsed members in August. The Membership Committee agreed a Membership Survey (approved by the BOD and approved by membership attending the general Lodge Meeting) is needed to seek out Members' Voice/Opinion. So far, the Membership Survey response has been very good. Just a couple more weeks before we close the survey and report back your voice. Please seriously consider completing this ANONYMOUS survey...speak up!

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

Thank You,

- Kevin Butler, Chair
- Drenda King
- Cathy Kulas
- Tracy Swayne
- Jeffrey Swayne

Mike Childress
Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler
machldr@hotmail.com



The Elks Veterans Committee had their Kick-Off Meeting on 9/18/2023. Members are researching and vetting information to find ways the Elks can assist local Veterans.

If you are interested in being a **Veterans Core Volunteer**, please sign-up! This will place you on the list to receive email notifications directly for all the upcoming activities and events to help Veterans.

Veterans Core Volunteer Sign-Up: click [HERE](#)

We look forward to working together to help our Veterans.

***~ We have what we have
because they did what they did ~***

Veterans Committee: Jeffrey Swayne (Co-Chair);
Tracy L. Swayne (Co-Chair); Craig Brower;
Kathy Davis Chesser; Tom Rathz; Peg Rathz

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



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO YOUR LODGE!