



The Antlers



May 2026



Message To The Members From Richard Theriault, Exalted Ruler



Dear Elks Members,

May is upon us and new officers are in place and getting settled in quickly. We are busy prioritizing upcoming projects to improve the lodge. We are continuing improvements to the annex to support future events. Also, we will be extending our RV parking space to welcome ELK members to visit our lodge.

We still have openings on our committees and the first chance to volunteer would be Tuesday May 5th to contact one of our lodge officers.

We are continuing to make improvements to our grounds. Also, after a couple of months of preparation and hundreds of volunteer hours, both buildings have been painted. I would like to thank everyone involved in that major project.

Finally, we want to remind everyone that our charitable organization relies on the kindness of our members. If you can donate time or resources, please do not hesitate to reach out. Contact numbers are on the Antlers back page.

Fraternally yours, Rick

May Birthdays

05/01	Gregory Alderman
05/01	Robert Degraff
05/02	Hans Merkel
05/04	David Tithof
05/06	Jack Boro
05/06	Philip Trueblood
05/12	Donald Falkenberg
05/12	Dana Sunshine
05/16	Betty Jo Edmondson
05/19	Lorraine Barker
05/21	Christine Esser
05/22	David Smith
05/22	Arnold Weitzel
05/22	Stephen Wysong
05/23	David Manharan
05/24	Steven Hebior
05/27	Casmer Ziemiak, Jr
05/29	Janice Kirsch
05/30	Charles Lewis, Jr

Birthday Drink Coupon

This coupon entitles you to 1 free
drink of your choice any dinner night
of your birthday month
One Coupon Per Member
Good for May '26"



THE ANTLERS

Thank You for All You Do!



Jim is very involved in all of our charities. He calls Monday Night Bingo; coordinates the Queen of Hearts game, and VA bingo for the Vets.

He also does a lot of little things around the lodge when no one is there to see. Jim is an Elk's Elk.

Thank you Jim, for all you do!

A warm welcome to our new Elks



Eddie C. and Mercy Carrasquillo,
Julia Husband, and Joyce Kern



THE ANTLERS

Elks are **Best People on Earth!**

2025-2026 Honorees

Thank You for All You Do!

Blake Freeman

Recognition of Exceptional Dedication Award

Your unwavering commitment and extraordinary effort have gone far beyond expectations. Thank you for setting a standard of excellence that inspires us all.

Kevin Burkhardt

Elks Distinguished Citizenship Award

For outstanding and meritorious service to humanity to Kissimmee, FL Lodge No. 1873 and the Grand Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Kenneth S. Edwards, Trustee 5-year Officer of the Year Award

For dedicated and meritorious service to the lodge, who by unselfish commitment and cheerful enthusiasm furthered Elkdom's programs while fulfilling the responsibilities as an Officer of the Lodge in an exemplary manner.

Lorraine Z. Barker Elk of the Year Award

As an expression of gratitude and appreciation of the members of the lodge and of the Grand Lodge for loyal and meritorious services in the furtherance of the Aims of our Order.

Karen Roper Volunteer of the Year Award

For consistently going above and beyond with generosity, passion, and integrity. Your impact is felt every day.

cont...



THE ANTLERS

Elks are Best People on Earth!

2025-2026 Honorees

Thank You for All You Do!

ELK OF THE MONTH AWARDS

April, 2025
Steve Hebior

May, 2025
Kevin Burkhardt

June, 2025
Karen Roper

July, 2025
Steve Campbell

August, 2025
Ken Edwards

September, 2025
Dawn Heid

October, 2025
Daniel King

November, 2025
Mark Waskelis

December, 2025
Blake Freeman

January, 2026
Vivian Theriault

February, 2026
Terry Seagraves

March, 2026
Terry Hebior



THE ANTLERS

Elks are **Best People on Earth!**



May 2026



Lodge Closed on Sundays, Thursdays and Saturdays
Except when noted

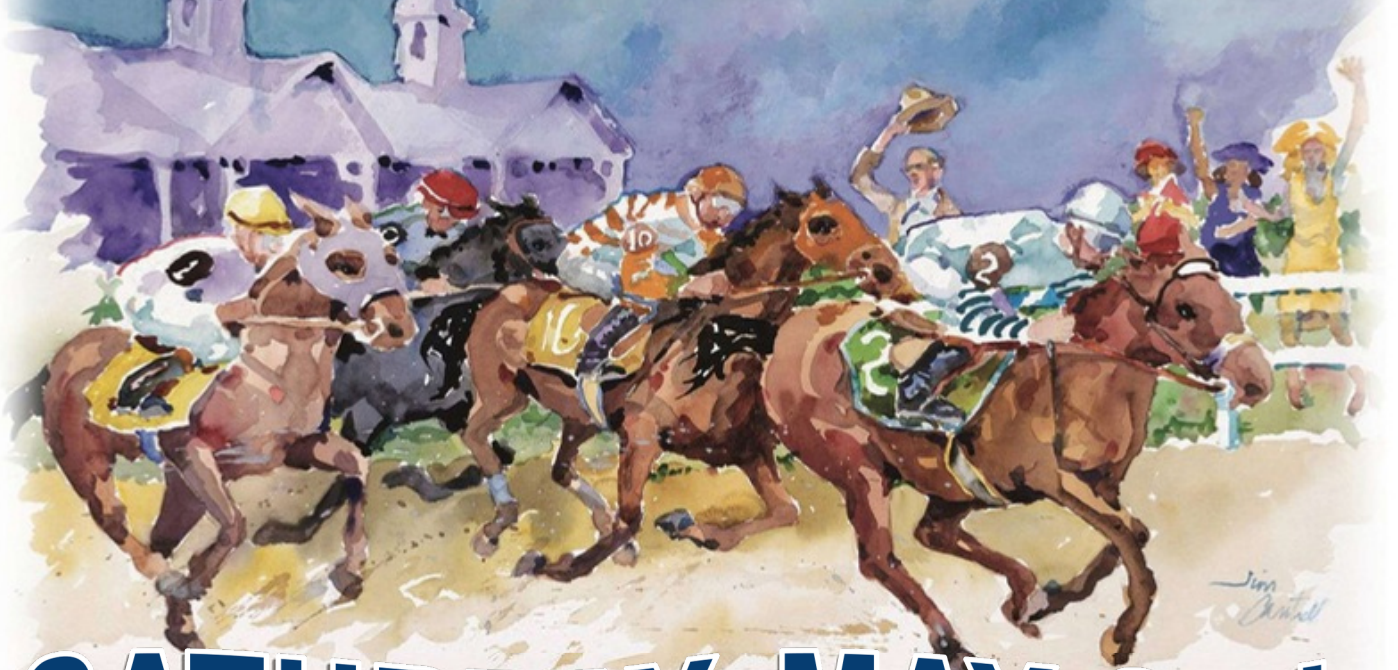
Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1  FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER	2 Kentucky Derby Potluck, Trivia, & Betting 4 - 8 pm <i>See flyer on pg 6</i>
3	4 CINCO DE MAYO  See flyer on pg 7 6pm	5 Activity Committee Meeting 6pm	6 6PM 	7	8  FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER	9
10 Happy Mother's Day Brunch Buffet 11 am - 2 pm <i>See flyer on pg 8</i>	11  6pm	12 BOD Mtg. 6pm Lodge Mtg. 7pm \$1 Hot Dogs after mtg.	13 6PM 	14	15  FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER	16
17	18  6pm	19 BINGO WITH VETS 2-3 PM 	20 6PM 	21	22  FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER	23
24 Private Event	25  6pm	26 Lodge Mtg. 7pm \$1 Hot Dogs after mtg.	27 6PM 	28	29  FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER	30
31 Private Event						

Lodge Hours Open Hours
Bar - 4pm
Kitchen
Monday/Tuesdays 5:00pm - 6:30pm
Wednesday 5pm-7pm
Friday 5pm-8pm
Bingo - 6pm
*Closed during Lodge Meetings



KENTUCKY DERBY



SATURDAY, MAY 2nd

EVENT 4PM - 8PM

Door open 4:00 p.m.

Appetizers 4:30-5:00 p.m.

Pot Luck 5:00-6:30 p.m. SIGN UP

Trivia 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Betting Opens 4:00 p.m.

Betting Closes 6:45 p.m.

Post time: Approximately 6:57 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 4TH

CELEBRATE



Cinco de Mayo

House Margarita \$3

Corona Bottle \$3

Dos Equis Bottle \$3

Food Available

5PM—6:30PM

Bingo 6PM



Taco Salad - \$8

GROUND BEEF OR DICED CHICKEN

Romaine lettuce topped with cheese, tomato and tortilla chips. Served with a side of Southwest Ranch Dressing

Burrito—\$8

GROUND BEEF OR DICED CHICKEN

Topped with cheese and served with Refried Beans, & Spanish Rice and a side of lettuce, tomato sour cream and salsa \$8

Chicken Tenders & Fries \$8

Treat Mom to a
Mother's Day
Buffet

Sunday, May 10, 2026
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Featuring an assortment of
delicious brunch entrees.

\$17.00 per adult
\$8.00 children 10 & under

**Please let us know if you're
attending no later than
Friday, May 8.**

Sign up at the bar
or call (407) 847-2444.



Mother's Day
Ceremony 1:00 PM

Mimosas and Bloody Marys
available for purchase.

HAPPY
Mother's Day

Community Service

CHARITABLE SERVICE

The Order prioritizes charity in its broadest sense, allowing local lodges to choose their benevolent activities while also responding swiftly to national disasters. Their charitable efforts include food, shelter, medical aid, education, and support for children, veterans, and the underprivileged. State Elks Associations lead initiatives such as scholarships, medical clinics, and rehabilitation programs.



**What can I do
today to keep our
local mission
going?**



MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026

**LET US REMEMBER TO HONOR OUR FALLEN
VETERANS WHO UNSELFISHLY GAVE ALL FOR THE
FREEDOMS WE ENJOY EVERYDAY**



THE ANTLERS

Community Service News



Elks National Foundation · Follow

1d · 🌐

Happy first day of the 2026-27 fiscal year!

This year, we are taking our commitment to Elks communities further than ever before.

For a closer look at the brand-new budget breakdown, visit <https://www.elks.org/ENF/ourgrants.cfm>

COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS PROGRAM

\$18.8 MILLION

Puts grants directly into communities with up to \$11,500 available to every Lodge.

STATE GRANTS

\$11.7 MILLION

Supports state association charitable programs.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

\$7.3 MILLION

Provides aid and comfort for America's veterans in need with initiatives to end Veteran Homelessness.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

\$5.8 MILLION

Builds relationships with the next generation of Elks through three scholarships: MVS, Legacy Awards and EEG.

FUNDRAISING & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

\$4.2 MILLION

At 7.8 percent, our fundamental expenses are far below the Better Business Bureau's standard for charities of no more than 35 percent of total spending.

MEMORIAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND SPECIAL RESERVE FUND

\$3.1 MILLION

Maintains the Elks National Veterans Memorial in Chicago, which is open to the public from April 15 through November 15.

ELKS HOOP SHOOT FREE THROW PROGRAM

\$1.6 MILLION

Unleashes gritty kids through a nationwide free throw tournament.

DRUG AWARENESS COMMISSION

\$1 MILLION

Promotes constructive and collaborative solutions to



\$53.8 MILLION

FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET OVERVIEW



THE ANTLERS

The 11 O'clock Toast to Our Absent Members

"You have heard the tolling of 11 strokes. This is to impress upon you that with us the hour of 11 has a tender significance. Wherever an Elk may roam, whatever their lot in life may be, when this hour falls upon the dial of night, the great heart of Elkdom swells and throbs. It is the golden hour of recollection, the homecoming of those who wander, the mystic roll call of those who will come no more. Living or dead, an Elk is never forgotten, never forsaken. Morning and noon may pass them by, the light of day sink heedlessly in the West, but ere the shadows of midnight shall fall, the chimes of memory will be pealing forth the friendly message.

ANTLER'S BOOSTER CLUB

JANUARY 31, 2027

JIM & JEANNIE PLATT (IMO) MERLE & TOBY MOUNTZ

MARCH 31, 2027

FRED & FRAN HAMMER (IMO) AMANDA ANDERSON

APRIL 1, 2027

PAT DEVILLERS (IMO) GEORGE DEVILLERS

MAY 31, 2027

LEE HERSHNER (IMO) ELLA FLYNN

FEBRUARY 28, 2028

DOT JOHNSTON (IMO) LES JOHNSTON

AUGUST 31, 2028

JOHN & CAROL HAMILTON (IMO) PAUL & LOUISE DANIELS

PLEASE CONSIDER USING THIS ANTLER BOOSTER PAGE TO ASSIST OUR LODGE WITH A PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION OR TO EULOGIZE OR MEMORIALIZE SOMEONE NEAR AND DEAR TO YOU. FOR \$20 PER YEAR, YOUR NAME CAN APPEAR HERE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT EXTRA CONTRIBUTION.

PLEASE CONTACT THE LODGE SECRETARY TO MAKE A \$20 ANTLERS BOOSTER DONATION FOR YOURSELF AND/OR ALSO MAKE A DONATION IN MEMORY OF (IMO) A LOVED ONE OR FRIEND.

***TAX DISCLAIMER: KISSIMMEE ELKS LODGE #1873 IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION 501(C)8.**



THE ANTLERS



KISSIMMEE ELKS LODGE #1873

1655 KINGS HIGHWAY

KISSIMMEE, FL 34744

TELEPHONE: (407) 847-2444

EMAIL: BPOE1873@GMAIL.COM

[FACEBOOK.COM/KISSIMMEEELKSLODGE1873](https://www.facebook.com/KISSIMMEEELKSLODGE1873)

WWW.KISSIMMEEELKSLODGE.COM



2025-2026 LODGE OFFICERS

EXALTED RULER	RICK THERIAULT
LEADING KNIGHT	ROBERT HUSBAND
LOYAL KNIGHT	JOE WASKELIS
LECTURING KNIGHT	STEVE HEBIOR
LODGE SECRETARY	ETTA JEAN PLATT, PER
LODGE TREASURER	DAWN HEID
ESQUIRE	STEVE CAMPBELL
TILER	DENNIS MILLER
CHAPLAIN	ROBERT HATCHELL
INNER GUARD	BETTY LAMBERT

2025-2026 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1-YEAR TRUSTEE MARK WASKELIS
2-YEAR TRUSTEE FRANK HUSBAND
3-YEAR TRUSTEE BLAKE FREEMAN
4-YEAR TRUSTEE KEN EDWARDS
5-YEAR TRUSTEE CHUCK LASSABE

LODGE MEETINGS

2ND AND 4TH TUESDAY
(EXCEPT JULY, AUGUST & DECEMBER)
OF EACH MONTH @ 7:00PM
MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED
TO ATTEND

CONTACT NUMBERS

RICK THERIAULT	407-414-4482
JIM PLATT	717-580-5039
JEANNIE PLATT	717-580-1016
STEVE HEBIOR	407-927-9301
JOE WASKELIS	727-560-5482
VIVIAN THERIAULT	407-595-6730
BOB BARRY	407-414-1718

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY HOURS
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY 10AM-2 PM

PAST EXALTED RULER ASSOCIATION (PER)

PRESIDENT	ROBERT BARRY PDDGER
VICE PRESIDENT	ETTA JEAN PLATT, PER
SECRETARY/TREASURER	JAMES PLATT, PER

2025-2026 TEAMS/LEADS

KITCHEN	STEVE HEBIOR
RENTALS	VIVIAN THERIAULT
NEWSLETTER	BILLIE JACKSON
ACTIVITIES	TERRY HEBIOR

LODGE ADVISOR	ROBERT BARRY PDDGER
LODGE ATTORNEY	TBD

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL ARTICLES FOR
PUBLICATION BY EMAIL TO
BILLIE.ELKSLODGE@GMAIL.COM
PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR CONTACT
INFORMATION



THE ANTLERS