



The Antlers



June 2026



HAPPY
*Father's
Day*



Message To The Members From Richard Theriault, Exalted Ruler



Dear Elk Members,

As we welcome June, I want to thank everyone who continues to support our lodge through your time, energy, resources, and commitment. Your volunteer spirit and fellowship are what keeps our lodge strong and makes a meaningful difference in our community. Our lodge continues to look better but does need constant attention, and we do need some updates for outdoor tasks before the rainy season. I encourage everyone to stay involved, attend our events, and continue making a positive difference together.

Good news update from the Florida convention:

The state of Florida had an increase in growth of over 400 members. This vaulted us from #45 in the country last year to #6 in membership growth this year! A big thank you to members for bringing in new people.

This month, please join us for our meetings and social events as well as our Flag Day Ceremony on June 15 as we come together in fellowship, service, and patriotism.

Thank you again for all you do for our lodge. I hope to see you at the lodge soon, and I wish you and your families a safe, happy, and memorable June.

Rick Theriault
Exalted Ruler

June Birthdays

06/01 Fred Cumbie II
06/01 Jeannie Platt
06/02 Frances Barry
06/02 Debra Furnari
06/02 Stephen Leggiero
06/02 Emory Miles
06/02 Robert Rousch
06/02 Richard Vortherms
06/03 Edward Petka
06/04 Daniel Jankowski
06/04 James Johnson
06/05 Abby Smith
06/07 Scott Ewalt
06/07 Michelle Self
06/10 Kimberl Beers
06/11 Kathleen Boro
06/11 Gerald Thompson
06/12 David Demond
06/14 Robert Caruso
06/14 Amanda Waskelis
06/15 Robert Birchler
06/15 Richard Mueller
06/19 Dorothey Guillot
06/19 Gerald Kilpatrick
06/19 Robert Slater
06/20 Lynn Carpenter
06/20 Robert Pinkston
06/21 Gerald Barnes
06/24 Scott Vinkemulder
06/25 Emory Graham
06/27 Marianne Tithof

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 June '26*





HAPPY *Father's* *Day*



Joe is one of those people who does not really want to be recognized but comes in to help whenever we need help. Whether it is cleaning, helping in the kitchen, serving at events, doing work outside, contacting vendors when we need service, or just doing what needs to be done around the lodge, Joe can be counted on to assist. Joe represents everyone in our lodge that helps us exist. We need a lot of these people to help us function every day.

Be a Joe, Volunteer!

Thank you Joe, for all that you do!

A warm welcome to our new Elk



Brad Norris



THE ANTLERS



HAPPY *Father's* *Day*



Recognition and Appreciation for our Lifetime Membership Lodge Members

Ed Adkins, PER.....	48 yrs
James Ballus.....	37 yrs
Charles Barker, PER.....	56 yrs
Gerald Barns.....	49 yrs
Robert Barry, PDDGER.....	63 yrs
Tom Blasko.....	30 yrs
Dean Blevins.....	38 yrs
Joseph Coamey, PER.....	43 yrs
Fred Cumbie.....	38 yrs
Thomas David, PER.....	55 yrs
Craig Dawson.....	43 yrs
Peter Gelesky.....	45 yrs
Emory Graham.....	54 yrs
John Hauer.....	59 yrs
Robert Husband.....	32 yrs
Daniel Jankowski.....	39 yrs
Ronald Johnson.....	54 yrs





HAPPY *Father's Day*



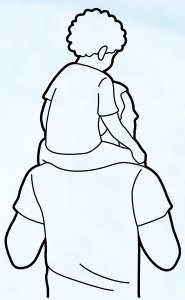
Recognition and Appreciation for our Lifetime Membership Lodge Members

Alan Lackey, PER.....	48 yrs
Wendell McKinnon.....	37 yrs
Emory Miles, PDDGER.....	56 yrs
Jeffords Miller.....	68 yrs
James Phillips.....	63 yrs
Roger Popp.....	30 yrs
Robert Rousch.....	38 yrs
Robert Slater.....	43 yrs
David Smith.....	38 yrs
Dana Sunshine.....	55 yrs
Jerry Testa.....	43 yrs
Bruce VanMeter.....	45 yrs
Stephen Wysong.....	54 yrs
Casmer Ziemiak.....	59 yrs

Recognition and Appreciation for our Honorary Life Members

Robert Tithof
Marianne Tithof





June 2026



**Lodge Closed on Sundays, Thursdays and Saturdays
Except when noted**

Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1  6pm	2 Activities Committee Mtg 6pm	3 6PM 	4	5  Friday Night DINNER	6 
7 	8  6pm	9 BOD Mtg. 6pm Lodge Mtg. 7pm \$1 Hot Dogs after mtg.	10 6PM 	11	12  FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER	13
14 HAPPY Father's DAY 	15   6pm	16 BINGO WITH VETS 2-3PM 	17 6PM 	18 	19  FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER	20 
21 	22  6pm	23 Orientation/ Lodge Mtg. 7pm 1 Hot Dogs after mtg.	24 6PM 	25	26  FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER	27 
28	29  6pm	30		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		

ELKS

Flag Day



**Come One & ALL !
CELEBRATE
The History of the
"Star Spangled Banner"
Monday, June 15th @ 5:45pm
Bingo will follow**



Community • Friendship • Charity
join.elks.org



EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR STUDENTS!
2026 American Essay Contest Theme Announced:



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST
*Sponsored by Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of
The United States of America*



THEME:

“Explain a Constitutional Right or Privilege and how it affects you and your family.”

RULES:

1. At the time of the contest, eligible participants must be Students enrolled in one of these four divisions: **I**—5th grade; **II**—6th grade; **III**—7th grade; or **IV**—8th grade.
2. Essay length is not to exceed 300 words.
3. Essay must be typed or legibly printed in ink. Also, Essay must be submitted as written (or typed) by the entrant.
4. Essay must be submitted for judging to the Elks Lodge nearest to the address of the entrant.
5. Participant must be identified by name, grade, school attending and sponsoring Elks Lodge on the Essay.

AWARDS:

Plaques will be awarded by Grand Lodge for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place for national winning essays in Divisions I, II, III, and IV. Monetary awards will be disbursed for each grade level for 1st Place—\$1,000; 2nd Place—\$500; and 3rd Place—\$250. Winners will be announced at the Grand Lodge Session in Chicago, IL.

ENTRY DATE:

Essay should be submitted to local Elks Lodge on/before December 15, 2025.
The Essay Contest Cover Sheet must be completed for each level of competition and remain attached to the Essay.

Check National Elks Foundation website for more information at

<https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/files/americanismEssayContest.pdf>

Constitutional rights and privileges are the same for everyone, but impacts people in many ways. We would like the students to pick just one way that a right or privilege affects them and their family.



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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?**

National Freedom Grants for Projects Serving Veterans & Active Duty Military Available Now

Any Elk member can create a project and apply for a Freedom Grant!

More details on next page

You can also find more details and wonderful project results reported from nationwide Elks Lodges
at <https://www.elks.org/vets/freedomgrants/>



THE ANTLERS



Elks National Veterans Service Commission

FREEDOM GRANTS

In 2026-27, the ENVSC will award \$1,000 Freedom Grants to 1,000 Lodges for qualifying projects. We are excited that even more Lodges will now have access to grant funds specifically to serve our nation's veterans and/or active-duty military members and their families.

WHAT QUALIFIES:

Freedom Grant projects must serve veterans and/or military members in need of support or services.

Projects must focus on one of these five areas: employment, homelessness and housing, current military members and their families, health, and educational support. These are broad categories and are intended as a guide for identifying local needs.

Here are some exciting examples of what other Lodges have accomplished with \$1,000 Freedom Grants.

- Wolf Point, Montana, Lodge No. 1764 provided gift baskets with clothing, blankets, and hygiene items for veterans at a local nursing home.
- Peoria, Illinois, Lodge No. 20 delivered high quality meat for barbequing to the Wayne Downing Veterans Home.
- Roseville, California, Lodge No. 2248 hosted monthly meals and social visits at the Citrus Heights Veterans Center.

HOW IT WORKS:

Applications will be available online April 1. Please ensure your initial application is detailed, complete, and follows all guidelines. There is no need to rush. Applications arrive over a series of months and will be reviewed and approved on a rolling basis.

PROJECT PLANNING TIPS:

Research what veterans in your community need. [Coordinate with the nearest VA facility](#). Recruit volunteers. [Talk to Veterans Service Officers in your area](#). Consider practical ways for your Lodge to help.

BASIC GUIDELINES:

- Projects must serve at least 4 veterans in need to maximize outcomes.
- Think local. General donations to state and national organizations don't qualify.
- Monetary donations qualify if made to nonprofit organizations that specifically serve veterans in need.
- Donations to member organizations like the VFW and the American Legion must be specifically designated for a project that serves veterans in need. Funds can't go toward general operations.
- Appreciation dinners open to all veterans, like a community Veterans Day dinner, do not qualify.

Application Questions:

1. Describe your Lodge's project. How is your Lodge serving veterans or active-duty military personnel with this grant?
2. How did you become aware of this need in the community? If your Lodge is working with a project partner, please describe them and list their name.
3. What steps has your Lodge taken to plan or prepare for using this grant? How will Elks be involved?
4. Explain how this project will improve the lives of the individuals you are serving. What does the Lodge expect to accomplish?
 - *A budget is also required. See below for details.*

Restrictions: No more than 10% of the budget can be dedicated to administrative or publicity expenses, including t-shirts. Budget cannot include cash prizes. Grants may not be used to serve Lodge members. Receipts from meals served at Lodges must reflect they were provided at cost and can't include alcohol.

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 Elksdom 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

JUNE 1, 2027

RHONDA SCHOOLEY (IMO) EDWARD NICHOLSON

FEBRUARY 28, 2028

DOT JOHNSTON (IMO) LES JOHNSTON

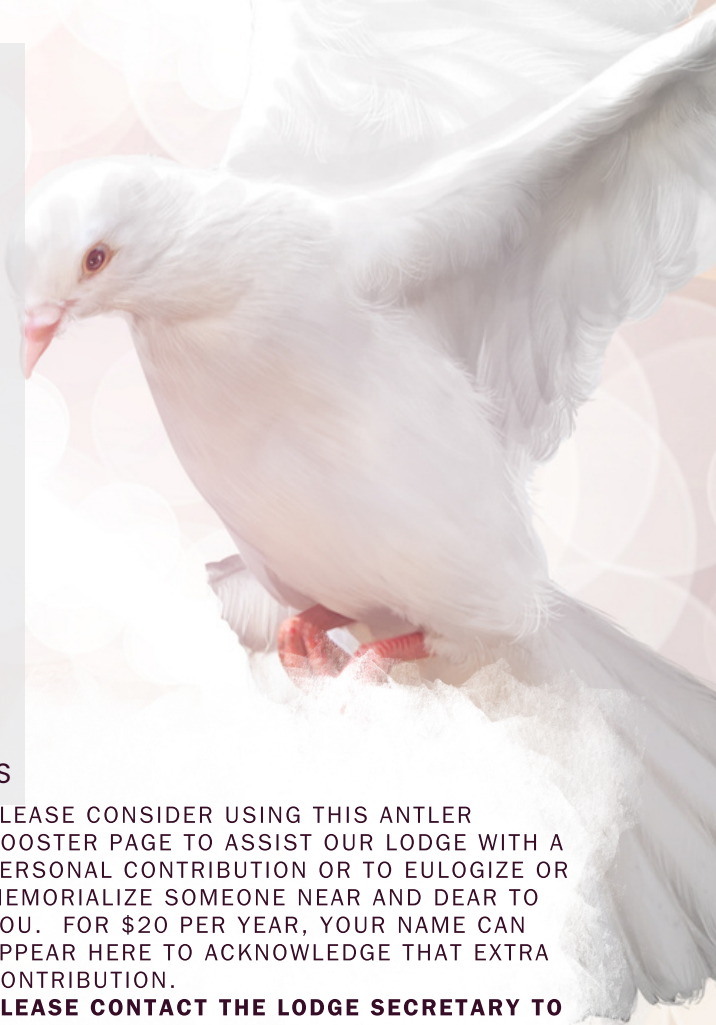
AUGUST 31, 2028

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



2026-2027 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

2026-2027 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, PDDGER
SECRETARY/TREASURER	JAMES PLATT, PER

2026-2027 TEAMS/LEADS

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

LODGE ADVISOR	ETTA JEAN PLATT, PDDGER
LODGE ATTORNEY	TBD

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



THE ANTLERS