Roanoke Elks Lodge #197

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http://www.elks197.org

Published Monthly

2026 - 2027 Lodge #197 Awards

Elk of the Year……Dakota Carrington
Officer of the Year……Tim Cronin
Citizen of the Year……Jimmy Butler
Volunteer of the Year……Barrett Sims

2026 - 2027 Lodge #197 Officers

Exalted Ruler……Abbe Toler
Secretary……Donna A. Moore
Treasurer……Tim Cronin
Esteemed Leading Knight……Shannon McCann
Esteemed Loyal Knight……Patrick Savage
Esteemed Lecturing Knight……Chris Davis
Esquire……Stephen Brandtner
Chaplain……William D. Bestpitch
Tiler……Carol Adkins
Inner Guard……Elijah S. Williams

Trustees
Matt Wynn, PDDGER, PER, Ann Harwood, Matt Webb, Jim Batey, PER, Josh Walters

Editor
Amy Wilhelm elks197news@gmail.com
All newsletter submissions are due no later than the 19th of the preceding month.

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 **Closed**	3 6:30 PER Meeting 6:30 Maintenance Committee	4 **7:00 Trivia**	5	6	7 **10:30 Veterans' Day Parade Jefferson Street**
8	9 **Closed**	10 7:30 Lodge Meeting	11	12 **1 - 6 Emalee Peterson Hall Memorial Blood Drive**	13	14 Draw Down
15 Last day to sign up for CJAM	16 Eat at BWW	17	18 7:00 Trivia	19	20	21 9:00am Thanksgiving Food Drive & Bake Sale
22	23 6:30 Orientation	24 7:30 Lodge Meeting Initiation	25	26 **Thanksgiving**	27	28 9:00am A House Divided Chili Cook Off
29	30 **Closed**					

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Since 1891

ROANOKE ELKS LODGE 197

Ready Elks! Let's Go!

Let's Show Up, Roanoke Lodge #197:

We have so much to do and so much to be thankful for! November is packed with opportunities to celebrate our brotherhood, serve our community, support our Lodge, and have a whole lot of fun along the way. Every weekend this month gives us another chance to show what it means to be an Elk. So, mark your calendars, invite your family and friends, and take action at each event. Every Elk is needed, and every Elk makes a difference!

November 7 – Veterans Parade Meet us on Jefferson at 10:30 a.m.! Bring your family, wear your Elk spirit, and walk with our parade entry as we honor the brave men and women who have served our country. Attend the parade and march with Roanoke Lodge #197 to show our community that Elks care!

November 14 – Draw Down This is our biggest fundraiser, and we need everyone behind it! Buy your ticket today, invite friends and family to participate, and attend the Draw Down to help make this event a tremendous success. Supporting our Lodge means supporting all the good we do!

November 21 – Food Drive Delivery Day Let's roll up our sleeves and put our charitable spirit into action! Volunteer to help load and deliver food to families in our community. Together, we'll help feed our neighbors and show what being an Elk is all about—neighbors helping neighbors and making a real difference.

November 28 – VT vs. UVA & House Divided Chili Cook-Off It's football, friendly rivalry, and chili! Enter the chili cook-off, bring a dish to share, buy a serving, and attend the game-day gathering to cheer on your favorite side. Whether you bleed maroon and orange or orange and blue, there's a place for you at the Lodge. Come hungry and ready to have fun!

Four weekends. Four opportunities. One amazing Lodge! We have much to be grateful for, and one of our greatest blessings is the people who make Roanoke Lodge #197 special. Let's celebrate that by showing up, pitching in, lending a hand, supporting our fundraisers, and enjoying the fellowship that makes our brotherhood strong.

Elks Share, Elks Care
Abbe Toler, Exalted Ruler

Lodge #197 November Events

11/3 6:30 PER Meeting
6:30 Maintenance Committee Meeting
11/4 7:00 Trivia
11/5 10:00 Bowling w Vets - Lee Hi Lanes
11/7 10:30 Veterans' Day Parade- - Jefferson Street
11/10 7:30 Lodge Meeting
11/12 1 - 6 Emalee Peterson Hall Memorial Blood Drive - All Volunteers Welcome
11/14 Draw Down
11/15 CJAMs Dinner ~ Sign up Deadline Contact BT Butler 540.537.5178
11/17 7:00 Trivia
11/21 Bake Sale and Thanksgiving Food Drive
11/23 6:00 Orientation
11/24 7:30 Lodge Meeting - Initiation

Upcoming Events

12/1 5:30 - 7:30 CJAMs Dinner
12/5 Polar Bear Club
12/9 5:30 Book Club Christmas Meeting will discuss Mad Mabel by Sally Hepworth
12/19 Member's Christmas Party

Emalee Peterson Hall Memorial
Red Cross Blood Drive: 11/12 1 - 6
Open to the public! Walkins welcome!
To schedule an appointment, go to redcrossblood.org and use keyword "elks197".
Volunteers are always welcome!
Contact Tony Koliba (540) 3306208
Our Scorecard: **Since 07/2022, our Lodge has collected 1130 pints helping 3390 people in need.**

Thanks to all participants and volunteers!

GRAND EXALTED RULER

The message of the Grand Exalted Ruler, Timothy Jaeger, can be found in the Elks Magazine and on the Grand Lodge website www.elks.org

November 2026
Elk of the Month
Frank

There is so much I could say about this man. After all, he is my husband, and I already know what a gem he is! But since I took over as Club Manager of the Lodge, not long after pool season began, he has truly been my rock, my biggest cheerleader, and, most of all, a huge help - not only to me, but to the Lodge as a whole.

He has helped with everything from taking out the trash and getting ice to helping me bring in liquor orders that have, at times, completely filled the car! On the mornings of busy pool holidays, he has cleaned and sprayed down the pavilion, moved chairs and tables into the grass, and helped prepare us for the mad rush ahead.

He has never said no when a member or committee has asked for his help. He even got his first experience helping the guys smoke pork butts for First Responders Day, and he had the best time doing it!

Most recently, I mentioned that I needed to tighten all the legs on the tables downstairs in the side room before the District Deputy's dinner. Without hesitation, he brought his tool kit and tightened every one of them. He then stayed to help during the dinner and with cleanup afterward.

When you see Frank sitting at the bar enjoying a sip of bourbon, just know that he has earned that moment to relax!

Frank has become a wonderful asset to our Lodge and an incredible source of support to me. I am so proud to see him recognized as Elk of the month.

Thank you, Frank, from all of us!

ILU
Maribeth

Thanksgiving Food Drive

We're getting closer to Thanksgiving which means we have lots to do to prepare our food baskets for delivery. Please don't forget to turn in your food or monetary donations by November 7 (earlier the better) so we can be sure to have plenty to offer our families around the Roanoke valley. We will need some volunteers, specifically a couple with trucks, to help our student volunteers with packing the boxes on Wednesday November 18. This will be an all day working day beginning in the morning. If you can help that day please text Trysh Brannan at 540-556-5550. The sign up sheet to deliver on Saturday November 21 will be posted on the front door. We will need 30-40 teams (at least two adults together) to deliver to our families beginning at 9:00am. Please sign up in teams of two with your contact information if you are willing and able to participate. Thanks again for all of your support so far!

~Trysh Brannan 540.556.5550

Veterans Corner:

12/1 CJAM Dinner 5:30 - 7:30. To sgn up contact BT Butler by 11/15.

11/4: Bowling with Vets 10am at Lee Hi Lanes

11/8: Parade of Heroes - Washington DC

For details about Veterans events please contact:

BT Butler 540.537.5178

ITEMS NEEDED FOR VETERANS

Recently, it was identified that the inpatient mental health unit of the VA could benefit from a clothes closet. Some veterans arrive with limited clothing, and the goal is to provide them with street clothes during their stay, instead of hospital pajamas. Since it can take time for families to bring items, having a clothes closet would offer quicker access to necessary clothing. All items must be new.
Below is a list of requested items and specific restrictions for the unit:

Shoes: Allowed: Widestrapped sandals (e.g. Crocs), slip on shoes, Velcro lace shoes
Not Allowed: Shoes with laces, hard soled shoes
Already available: Socks

Shirts:
Allowed: Long/shortsleeve buttonup, Long/short sleeve cotton shirts
Not allowed: Shirts with full zippers or string, hoodies Already available: white tshirts, sweatshirts
Pants:
Allowed: Pants that button (can have a zipper), jogger pants without a drawstring or elastic that can be pulled out Not Allowed: Pants with drawstring, elastic that can be removed
Undergarments:
New and in the original packaging: Male and female underwear, female bras without underwire

Other Items:
Composition notebooks (no staples, or wire binding), reading glasses available at stores like Dollar Tree, TJ Maxx, or Goodwill)
We are looking for a variety of sizes to meet the needs of both men and women on the unit. Thank you. I have placed some containers in the lobby to serve as a collection point and will coordinate getting them to the VA.

Joe Handerhan 540.676.3283

Welcome Home Kits

Through the support of the Grand Lodge, funding is available to help homeless veterans as the transition into permanent housing. Our Lodge has proudly provided Welcome Home Kits to seven veteran families so far. Each kit is customized:. We speak directly with the veterans to determine their needs, then shop for and deliver the items right to their new home.

While food and furniture cannot be purchased through this program, our generous Lodge members have stepped up - donating furniture, a washer and dryer, and even clothing to help these families get settled.
If you're interested in supporting this rewarding program, visit lks.org, click on Elks National Foundation, and scroll to Veterans Services to learn more, There are many other ways to get involved in serving our veterans. To participate locally or donate, contact:

Barbara Brandtner at 540.797.1886

Virginia Elks Youth Camp Adult Weekend 2026 — One for the Books!

The Virginia Elks Youth Camp Adult Weekend 2026 was certainly one for the books! Affectionately dubbed "Camp Vegas Weekend" — and as the saying goes, what happens at Camp Vegas stays at Camp Vegas! While we can't tell you everything that happened, we can certainly share some of the highlights!

From kayaking, hiking, and fishing to eating, drinking, dancing, and plenty of laughter, a great time was had by all!

Although Mother Nature tried to put a damper on our camping weekend with a little unexpected rain Saturday night, she certainly didn't dampen our spirits. For the remainder of the weekend, we enjoyed wonderful weather, great company, and more than our fair share of fun.

For some, the outdoor activities were the highlight of the weekend. For others, it was undoubtedly the abundance of food! From homemade sausage gravy and fresh farm eggs for breakfast to Charles's delicious chicken bog for lunch, followed by Carol and Matt's mouthwatering pork butt, accompanied by an incredible variety of side dishes and appetizers prepared by everyone, nobody went hungry!

And then came Saturday night, Where I finally made "Camper of the Year"

We topped off the evening with a top-shelf margarita bar and a fantastic night of music and dancing with Robin and Doug!

Now, here's where things get interesting. We had originally prepared enough margaritas for the 52 guests who signed up. However, with only 25 of us actually making it to camp, let's just say there was no shortage of margaritas!

Which probably explains why some of us only remember the latter part of Saturday night thanks to the photographs that started circulating the following morning! But remember, what happens at Camp Vegas... well, apparently sometimes ends up in pictures!

All kidding aside, it was a wonderful weekend filled with friendship, fellowship, laughter, and memories that will last for years to come.

To everyone who attended, contributed food, helped prepare meals, entertained us, or simply came along for the fun, thank you for making the weekend so special!

And to those who couldn't make it, we're sorry we missed you, but we certainly hope you'll join us next time.

Until next year, Camp Vegas!

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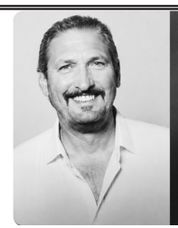
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