



Buckeye Elks Lodge #2686

The Desert Sign

Volume 42 | Number 6 | June 2026



2026/2027 OFFICERS

EXALTED RULER
Adam Ramsdell

ESQUIRE
Ryen Ramsdell

LEADING KNIGHT
Diane Bost

LOYAL KNIGHT
Susie Boyles

LECTURING KNIGHT
Brian Rabjohn

TREASURER
Wanell Costello

SECRETARY
Lisa Schenk

INNER GUARD
JR Armour

TILER
Hondo Jimenez

CHAPLAIN
Claudia Martinez

TRUSTEES
Art Heiden
Deanna Kupcik
Jay Broadbent
Eric Cooke
Adam Hardin

Contact Us

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Office Hours
Wednesday 5:30–8:00 PM



Message from the Exalted Ruler

Greetings Fellow Elks,

At the Arizona Elks Convention this year, I heard a quote from Louis Grillo that's stuck with me: *"As much as things change, things stay the same."*

That sentiment feels especially true for our Lodge right now. We're trying new things: a new newsletter format, new events, new ways to reach out to our community. But at the heart of it, what makes this Lodge what it is hasn't changed one bit. It's the people who show up. The ones who cook the Monday night dinners, the ones who volunteer at the Flag Day ceremony, the ones who simply walk through the door on a Wednesday evening because that's what Elks do.

This month we celebrate Flag Day and honor our veterans, recognize our fathers, and award a scholarship to a deserving student in our community. That tradition runs deep. And it continues because you continue to make it happen.

As we head into summer, I encourage you to stay engaged. Come to a dinner. Buy a raffle ticket. Bring a friend. The Lodge is only as strong as the members who walk through its doors.

Fraternally,
Adam Ramsdell
Exalted Ruler

Message from the Secretary

Hello Members,

Dues update: We're currently at 71% of members paid for the year. Our goal is 100% by the end of June. Let's get there! If you haven't paid yet, please take care of it this month. You can pay in person at the Lodge or by mail.

One member was reinstated. Welcome back! And our Fidelity Club membership is down to just 1 person out of 436 in Arizona. Let's see if we can get a few more Buckeye Elks signed up. Every bit helps our Lodge qualify for ENF grants that fund community projects right here at home.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me at bpoe2686@gmail.com.

Fraternally,
Lisa Schenk
Secretary

BITS & PIECES

- Lodge Meetings.** Summer schedule! Only one meeting this month: **Wednesday, June 10 at 6:00 PM** (combined Lodge Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting). Mark your calendars. We'll resume our regular 2nd and 4th Wednesday schedule in September.
- Membership.** We're at 188 members. Know someone who'd make a great Elk? Bring them to a meeting or dinner and let them see what we're about.
- Delinquent Dues.** 29% of our members are currently delinquent. Please bring your dues current. Our goal is 100% by end of June. Pay in person or by mail.
- A Good Elk Is an Active Elk!** Volunteer for a committee. Sign up at the Lodge. Every pair of hands makes a difference.
- AZ Elks Training.** Online training available at arizonaelksassociation.org. Learn what it means to be an Elk!
- Monday Night Dinners.** 5:00–7:00 PM. \$10 per person. Great food, great company. Bring the family! **Check elks2686.org for the weekly menu and confirmation. Not every Monday has a dinner scheduled, so check before you come!**

★ ROOF REPLACEMENT FUNDRAISER

Red Rock Raffle

Drawing Friday, August 21 · 6:00 PM

Win a 2-night stay in beautiful Sedona, Arizona! Join us for dinner at the Lodge, and following dinner we'll draw the winner. Choose a studio, 1-bedroom, or 2-bedroom unit at the Hilton Sedona Summit Resort, all with kitchenettes, living rooms, and balconies with beautiful Sedona views.

Raffle tickets: \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Stop by the Lodge and get your tickets today. **You do not need to be present to win!**

All proceeds benefit the Lodge roof replacement fund.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

188

MEMBERS

71%

DUES PAID

29%

DUES OWED

1

REINSTATED

1

FIDELITY CLUB

Our goal: 100% of members paid by the end of June. Let's get there!

UPCOMING AT THE LODGE

Flag Day · Father's Day · Fundraisers & Fellowship

Lodge Meeting & Initiation

Wednesday, June 10 · 6:00 PM

This month's combined Lodge Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting includes the **initiation of new members**. Come welcome our newest Elks! Lodge Connect runs 5:00–6:00 PM beforehand, so come early and join us.

Flag Day, Veterans Recognition & Father's Day Brunch

Saturday, June 13 · 10:00 AM

Please join us for a special event at the Lodge. We'll be celebrating Flag Day and Father's Day, honoring our veterans, and awarding a scholarship to a deserving student. The festivities begin at 10:00 AM followed by a **free brunch**. Bring your family. This is one of our most meaningful traditions.

Night Fun Run

Saturday, June 20 · Lodge opens 4:00 PM, Dinner 5:00 PM, Run at dusk

Grab your rig and join the adventure! This follow-the-leader desert run rolls through multiple stops, each with its own **games and raffle prizes**, plus great company under the desert stars. It's a fundraiser for the **Lodge roof replacement fund**, so every mile helps. Watch our **Facebook page** for the latest details and updates as the date gets closer.

Members & guests only. This first Night Fun Run is limited to Buckeye Elks Lodge members and their personal guests due to safety and liability considerations for after-dark events. We appreciate your understanding!

Coming Soon

We're exploring several new activities for members, including:

Movie Night

Music Trivia

Indoor Cornhole

Stay tuned for additional details on these and other upcoming events. We look forward to seeing you at the Lodge!

LODGE CONNECT

Want to get more involved? We're making it easy.

Starting this month, your ER and a few fellow Elks will be at the Lodge on designated evenings to chat with anyone who wants to learn about open committee positions, volunteer opportunities, or just find out how to take that first step from “member” to “active member.”

No commitment, no pressure. Just a conversation over a drink or a plate of food.

Wednesday, June 10 · 5:00–6:00 PM, before the Lodge Meeting

Monday, June 22 · 5:00–6:00 PM, alongside Monday Night Dinner

Come early, grab a seat, and let's talk about what this Lodge could look like with you in it.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

We Need Committee Chairs!

Youth Activities · Drug Awareness · State Major Project · Ritualistic

These committees are looking for a chair. Interested? Talk to any officer or email bpoe2686@gmail.com and step up to make a difference.

Current Committee Chairs

Membership: Susie Boyles

Auditing & Accounting: Leatta McLaughlin

Activities: Adam Hardin

Hoop Shoot: Tara Snyder

Veterans Services: Brian McAchrans

Accident Prevention: Curtis Scott

Public Relations: Leatta McLaughlin

Scholarship: Faryn Hardin

Protocol: Savy Frew

Clubroom: Adam Hardin

Elks National Foundation: Leatta McLaughlin

ENF FIDELITY CLUB

Out of 436 members in Arizona, Buckeye Lodge has just 1 Fidelity Club member. Let's change that! Contact the Lodge for information on how to join and help our Lodge qualify for ENF grants that fund community projects right here at home.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Doug Bulfer, 3rd | John Day, 5th | Edward Hengsteler, 8th |
| Deryl Tomsic, 13th | Alejandro Jimenez, 15th | Hector Bermudez, 16th |
| Jeannie Stacy, 17th | Kevin Johnson, 19th | Ruben Garza, 22nd |
| Steven Moore, 23rd | C J Broadbent, 26th | Theresa Staudinger, 26th |
| Wyatt Ezell, 27th | Steve Ganley, 28th | |

Happy Birthday to all our June Elks!

Fun June Facts

June 14 is **Flag Day**, commemorating the adoption of the Stars and Stripes in 1777.

Father's Day falls on June 21 this year.

The **summer solstice** arrives June 21, the longest day of the year.

Sedona, where our raffle winner is headed, is famed for its red rock formations and was named after Sedona Arabella Miller Schnebly, wife of the town's first postmaster.

PRAYER CORNER

May the light of safety shine on those who work in the heat. May they keep hydrated and safe from heat-related illness. For the teachers and children finishing the school year, pray for a safe and enjoyable summer. Pray for those who cannot pray for themselves; they are in need but do not know how to ask. Rest in peace to the recently departed.

If you have a prayer request, please email bpoe2686@gmail.com.

A CLOSING BLESSING

*The Lord bless you, and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine on you,
and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his face toward you,
and give you peace.*

JUNE 2026 ACTIVITIES

Flag Day on the 14th | Father's Day & Summer Solstice on the 21st

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| | 1 Monday Dinner | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 Monday Dinner | 9 | 10 Lodge Connect 5p · Lodge Mtg 6p · Initiation | 11 | 12 | 13 Flag Day Brunch 10a |
| 14 Flag Day | 15 Monday Dinner | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Night Fun Run |
| 21 Father's Day · Solstice | 22 Monday Dinner · Lodge Connect 5p | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 Monday Dinner | 30 | | | | |

Monday Dinner = Monday Night Dinner, 5–7 PM, \$10/person. Check elks2686.org for this week's menu & confirmation!

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