CHICAGO

PROGRAM

One Hundred Sixty-First Grand Lodge Session

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America

Elks USA

July 5 – 8, 2026

Chicago, Illinois

Welcome to CHICAGO

On behalf of the members of the Illinois Elks Association, I welcome the delegates, spouses, and guests to the 161st Grand Lodge Convention of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks! It has been 29 years since Chicago hosted a Grand Lodge Convention, and I am confident that we will have another successful convention here. Your hosts, the Elks of Illinois, have both experience and knowledge and can assist you with all of your hospitality needs.

From the Opening to the Closing Ceremonies and everything in-between, this convention will offer you many opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of our Order. You will receive information and ideas that you can take back with you to your Local Lodges, Districts, and State Associations to share.

In addition to all of the regular excitement that surrounds an Elks National Convention, this year we have extra events that you will have the opportunity to experience. The Elks National Memorial Building and Headquarters, which is in Chicago, was built and dedicated in 1926. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of this stunning and awe-inspiring building, plans have been made for a wonderful celebration event during the convention to commemorate the occasion. You will definitely want to allow time in your schedule to tour this amazing building while you are in town.

Visitors should arrange to see the Beaux Arts-style Elks National Memorial Building, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary. | Photo: Elks National Foundation

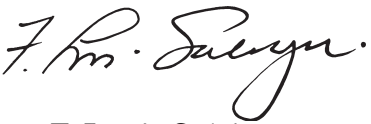
Chicago last hosted a Grand Lodge Convention 29 years ago, in 1997. | Photo: JLBarroso/Adobe Stock

This convention is also a "homecoming" for the First Couple of Elkdom, Bryan and Susan Klatt. Grand Exalted Ruler Bryan, who hails from DeKalb, Illinois, will preside over the convention and is the keynote speaker at the Opening Ceremony on Sunday afternoon, July 5.

When the convention is not in session, you can be sure Chicago has much to offer for your enjoyment and pleasure. Renowned for its architecture, I'm sure you have heard of Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower) and 360 Chicago (in the former John Hancock Building). These buildings are open to the public and boast observation decks that offer panoramic city and lakefront views that are breathtaking. Chicago is also known for culture and arts. Visit and enjoy some of its famous landmarks, such as Cloud Gate—also known as the Bean—at Millennium Park, Navy Pier, and the Chicago Riverwalk. On top of that, restaurants, bars, shopping, and much more await you!

I hope you are looking forward to this year's convention. You can be sure Chicago and the Elks of Illinois are excited to welcome you back to the Land of Lincoln and will do their best to make you feel at home!

Sincerely and fraternally,



F. Louis Sulsberger
Past Grand Exalted Ruler
Illinois State Sponsor

CHICAGO

Dear Friends:

As Mayor, and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to all those gathered for the National Convention of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

For more than 150 years, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to community service, support for our nation's veterans, youth development, and charitable initiatives that uplift communities throughout the country. The National Convention provides an important opportunity for members to come together to celebrate these accomplishments, conduct the work of the Order, and strengthen the bonds that unite nearly one million Elks members nationwide.

This year's convention cycle holds special significance as it marks the 100th anniversary of the Elks National Memorial Building, one of the most meaningful landmarks in the history of the organization and a treasured site here in Chicago.

Millennium Park is home to the reflective sculpture Cloud Gate—also known as the Bean—and Jay Pritzker Pavilion, an outdoor bandshell. | Photo: Alejandro Reyes/Choose Chicago

Since its dedication in 1926, the Memorial has stood as a powerful tribute to the service and sacrifice of American veterans.

The July 4, 2026, anniversary ceremony at the Memorial will be a particularly meaningful moment — an opportunity for Members, veterans, and guests from across the nation to reflect on a century of remembrance and to reaffirm the Elks' enduring pledge: "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them." Chicago is proud to host you during this historic time. While you are here, I encourage you to enjoy the vibrant neighborhoods, rich cultural institutions, and welcoming spirit that make our city one of the great destinations in the world.

I hope you have an enjoyable event. Best wishes for continued success.

Brandon Johnson
Mayor of Chicago

Chicago recently debuted seating at the Clarence F. Buckingham Memorial Fountain in Grant Park, letting visitors relax and enjoy the city. | Photo: Barry Butler Photography/ Choose Chicago

REGISTRATION

BADGES AND EVENT RESERVATION INFORMATION

All Grand Lodge Members, Exalted Rulers, visiting Elks, and their guests must be registered. Your badge must be displayed for admission into the session halls and all Elks-related functions associated with this convention.

The registration area will open on Friday, July 3, at 12:00 p.m. at the McCormick Place – West Building. The registration staff will be available during the convention to address any issues with badges or voting credentials. The McCormick Place – West Building should be considered your information center.

McCormick Place hosts about 3 million visitors each year.
Photo: McCormick Place Chicago

REGISTRATION HOURS

Hall F1
McCormick Place – West Building

Friday, July 3	12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, July 4	8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Sunday, July 5	8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Monday, July 6	7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Tuesday, July 7	7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

EVENT RESERVATIONS

All attendees are asked to make reservations for all seminars and workshops. Attendees are not required to make reservations. *An event reservation does not guarantee a seat in the seminar.*

REGISTRATION

EXHIBITS

Displays for the activities of Grand Lodge committees and programs, state major projects, and trademark licensees will be in the McCormick Place – West Building in Hall F1.

Displays and exhibits will be on display in Hall F1.

Photo: McCormick Place Chicago

EXHIBIT HOURS

Hall F1

McCormick Place – West Building

Saturday, July 4	8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, July 5	8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monday, July 6	7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 7	7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

GRAND LODGE SESSIONS

Sessions will be held daily at the McCormick Place – West Building in the Skyline Ballroom (W375).

Seating map for the general sessions for Monday through Wednesday.

No assigned seating at the Opening Ceremony.

Seating Map

elks.org/convention/files/seatingMap.pdf

RITUAL SCHEDULE

Ritual Contest finals will be held at the McCormick Place – West Building on Monday, July 6.

CHURCH SERVICE

A Catholic Mass will be held on Sunday, July 5, at 9 a.m. at the McCormick Place – West Building in Room W475.

GRAND LODGE

All Grand Lodge Sessions will be held daily at
McCormick Place – West Building
Skyline Ballroom (W375)
2317 S. Indiana Street
Chicago, IL 60616

MCP–WB = McCormick Place – West Building

Saturday, July 4

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Simulcast of the 100th Anniversary Program. Be part of a historic moment as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Elks National Memorial Building through a nationwide simulcast. This inspiring program reflects on a century of patriotism, remembrance, and the Elks' unwavering dedication to serving our nation and communities. **MCP–WB Room W184.**

Sunday, July 5

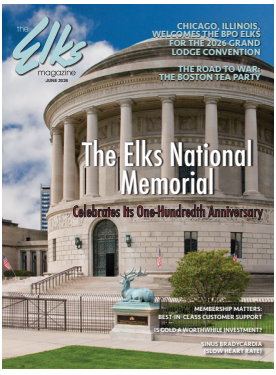
9 – 10 a.m. Catholic Mass. **MCP–WB Room W475.**

10 – 11:30 a.m. Grand Lodge Public Relations and Membership Marketing seminar, The Journey Toward World Class Customer Service Begins. We will focus on raising standards across Elkdom. Two world-class customer service seminars will be held during the convention, designed to strengthen retention, improve renewals, and reinforce pride in membership. These seminars are practical and actionable, focused on what matters most: keeping Elks connected, committed, and proud to belong. **MCP–WB Room W184.**

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler seminar. PGERs are invited to attend. **Hilton Chicago Hotel, Waldorf Room, third floor.**

10 – 11 a.m. The staff of The Elks Magazine will give a seminar on how to submit fraternal news and photos to the magazine. **MCP–WB Room W470.**

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. The staff of The Elks Magazine will give a seminar on how to submit fraternal news and photos to the magazine. **MCP–WB Room W470.**



PROGRAM

General Sessions will start each morning promptly at 8:00 a.m.

All attendees are required to register and requested to make event reservations to attend seminars and workshops. Please be sure to attend all sessions to receive the 2026-2027 program information.

FUTURE ELKS CONVENTIONS

July 4–7, 2027 • Denver, Colorado
July 2–5, 2028 • Baltimore, Maryland
July 1-4, 2029 • Columbus, Ohio
July 7-10, 2030 • Reno, Nevada

2–3 p.m. The Elks National Foundation will hold a Community Investments Program: #ElksAlwaysCare seminar. This session is an opportunity to learn more about the 2026-27 grant specifics, including a $500 increase to the Spotlight Grant and best practices for grant use. **MCP–WB Room W187.**

4 p.m. OFFICIAL GRAND LODGE OPENING CEREMONY. Members and accompanied guests are invited to attend. Opening remarks and introduction of the Past Grand Exalted Rulers and Past First Ladies by Master of Ceremonies Bruce A. Hidley, Past Grand Exalted Ruler. Introduction of State Presidents and Presentation of Flags by the Chairman of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee, Gwendolyn B. Parker. Elks National Drug Awareness Commission Report, Elks National Veterans Service Commission Report, Veteran Memorial Presentation, Elks National Foundation Report including Hoop Shoot® and Scholarship presentations. Principal Address by Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Exalted Ruler.

Monday, July 6

8 a.m. Opening Grand Lodge Business Sessions. Annual Report given by the Grand Exalted Ruler. Reports from Elks National Convention Commission, National Memorial & Publications, Veterans Restoration Trust, Board of Grand Trustees, Committee on Judiciary Preliminary Report, and Legislative Session Discussion.

9:30 a.m. All registered guests are invited to attend the Session.

Preliminary Ritual Report, Nomination & Election of Grand Lodge Officers for 2026-2027. ***Celebration*** and Grand Exalted Ruler-Elect Acceptance Speech.

12 – 3 p.m. Congratulations, DDGER Designates!

You've reached an incredible milestone—and now it's time to take the next step in your leadership journey!

Join us for the DDGER Designate Orientation, a must-attend seminar designed to equip you with the tools, insights, and inspiration for the year ahead. Attendance is required for all SDGERs, and this session is packed with valuable information! Starting at **12 p.m.**, enjoy a complimentary lunch to refuel and connect with fellow designate attendees. Be sure to bring the Box Lunch Ticket you received with your registration credentials—it's required to claim your meal. **MCP–WB Room W185.**

12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Auditing and Accounting Committee - Introduction to Lodge Accounting for Officers seminar. **MCP–WB Room W181**.

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee - All American Lodge & Americanism Essay Contests workshop. **MCP–WB Room W187**.

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Elks National Foundation – Hoop Shoot Unleashing Gritty Kids. Learn about what's in store for the upcoming season and how you can help develop gritty kids! **MCP–WB Room W475.**

Learn about the upcoming Hoop Shoot 2027 season, developing grit in kids, and more at ENF seminars.

Photo: Elks National Foundation

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Elks National Foundation – Fundraising Chair: Back to Basics—Fundraising 101 seminar. This session will break down the art and science of fundraising and provide best practices to apply in your Lodge. Though the content for this seminar is designed for ENF Fundraising Chairs, all are welcome to attend. **MCP–WB Room W184.**

1 – 2 p.m. The staff of The Elks Magazine will give a seminar on how to submit fraternal news and photos to The Elks Magazine. **MCP–WB Room W470**.

1 p.m. Ritual Finals. Please be advised that the area designated for the Ritual Finals is acoustically sensitive. To maintain the integrity of the proceedings and ensure a respectful environment for all participants, we kindly request that noise levels be kept to a minimum in this vicinity. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. **MCP–WB, first floor, W190-level rooms.**

1 – 2:30 p.m.: Elks National Veterans Service Commission will hold the Versatility of the Voluntary Service Program seminar. Did you know that Elks host lobster fishing trips, go to monster truck events, and rescue birds? From bingo and baby supplies to emergency housing and mentoring veterans through the court system, the Voluntary Service program adapts to the communities where Elks serve veterans. Join us to discuss the versatility of the Voluntary Service program and how you can get involved. **MCP–WB Room W179.**

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. The Board of Grand Trustees will be available for questions at the **Hilton Chicago Hotel in the Pullman Room on the fourth floor**.

1:30 – 4 p.m. Committee on Judiciary will be available for questions at the **Hilton Chicago Hotel in the McCormick room on the fourth floor.**

2 – 2:30 p.m. The Grand Exalted Ruler-Elect will be available for photos with the State Presidents. **MCP–WB Room W186.**

2 – 4 p.m. Ladies of the Elks workshop. Florida Ladies of Elks will host a meet and greet. Ladies affiliated with Elks Lodges across the country can meet and share event and fundraising ideas to take back to their Lodges. Go back to your home lodge with innovative ideas that can enhance attendance and participation in your events and fundraisers. This is a social workshop, not a structured meeting or lecture. **MCP–WB Room W187.**

2 – 3:15 p.m. Auditing and Accounting Committee – Advanced Lodge Accounting Topics seminar. **MCP–WB Room W181**.

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Elks National Veterans Service Commission seminar on Introduction to the Veterans Leather Program. Get involved with the Veterans Leather Program! Learn how you can start this program at your Lodge and in your state. Program Chairs will share their expertise, review program requirements, and offer instructions on how to participate. **MCP–WB Room W179.**

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Grand Lodge Public Relations & Membership Marketing seminar. The Journey Toward World Class Customer Service Part Two—Strong Customer Service begins with leadership. This seminar will feature presenters bringing real-world experience and proven strategies that Lodges can implement immediately, regardless of size or budget. The Exalted Ruler and District Deputy leadership track will focus on leading with intention, consistency, and pride, creating environments where Members feel valued, guests feel welcome, and communities clearly understand who we are and what we stand for. **MCP–WB Room W184.**

2:30 – 4 p.m. The Activities Committee seminar will provide an overview of the committee's programs, including the Soccer Shoot, Student/Teenager of the Month/Year, JROTC Awards, Scouting, Dictionary Project, Antlers, Community Projects Contest, Public Safety Medals, and the Junior Golf Program. At the end of the seminar, there will be a panel discussion and the opportunity for Members to ask questions of the committee regarding the programs. **MCP–WB Room W470.**

3 – 4 p.m. The Grand Exalted Ruler-Elect will be available for photos with the District Deputies Designate. **MCP–WB Room W186.**

Tuesday, July 7

8 a.m. Grand Lodge Business Session. Report of Resolutions Committee, Registration (Final), Board of Grand Trustees (Final), Grand Forum/Pardon Committee, Committee on Judiciary Legislative Session, Disaster Relief Fund Report, Government Relations, Auditing & Accounting, Chicago Headquarters 2026-2027 Program, GER Elect Program Remarks.

10 a.m. Non-Members Admitted. Activities Committee, Fraternal Committee "All American Lodge Awards" Committee Reports.

Legislative Results, Final Report and Team Awards of Ritual Committee.

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Meet the Grand Exalted Ruler–Elect! Join us at the Elks Memorial Clock for an opportunity to meet the incoming national leader of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Don't forget to bring your membership card for a personalized signature. **MCP–WB Hall F1A foyer.**

12 – 3 p.m. District Deputy Designate Conference. SDGERs are required to attend. Box lunch will be provided. **MCP–WB Hall Room W185.**

12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Auditing and Accounting Committee – Advanced Lodge Accounting Topics seminar. **MCP–WB Hall Room W181.**

12:30 – 2 p.m. The Activities Committee seminar will provide an overview of the committee's programs, including the Soccer Shoot, Student/Teenager of the Month/Year, JROTC Awards, Scouting, Dictionary Project, Antlers, Community Projects Contest, Public Safety Medals, and the Junior Golf Program. At the end of the seminar, there will be a panel discussion, and the opportunity for Members to ask questions of the committee regarding the programs. **MCP–WB Hall Room W470.**

The ENVSC will offer seminars on programs that help Elks serve veterans. Additionally, be sure to visit the veterans displays while at the Elks Memorial Building. Photo: Elks National Foundation

1 – 2 p.m. Veterans Salute – Parade of Heroes Conference will highlight the Veterans Salute – Parade of Heroes initiative, honoring veterans from all eras for their service and sacrifice. Attendees will learn how this program provides long-overdue recognition, from welcoming home Vietnam veterans, to reaffirming the sacrifices of Korea and WWII veterans, to expressing gratitude to those who served in the Gulf War and war on terrorism. The conference also explores the powerful connections and healing that occur when veterans across generations come together. In addition, participants will gain practical, step-by-step guidance on organizing a program in their own community, including planning, promotion, fundraising, and veteran engagement. Please note that this program it is not affiliated with or funded by the Elks National Veterans Service Commission or the Elks National Foundation's Community Investments Program. **MCP–WB Hall Room W475.**

1 – 2 p.m. The staff of The Elks Magazine will give a seminar on how to submit fraternal news and photos to The Elks Magazine. **MCP–WB Hall Room W179.**

GRAND LODGE PROGRAM

1 – 3 p.m. The Elks National Drug Awareness Commission will host a seminar, which is open to anyone who would like to learn more about the program. Attendees will hear from the actual people who have had success in educating youth and parents in their hometown. Hear about our extensive catalogue of "no cost" literature; hear about the latest drug trends in your community and what you as an individual can do to help make your community safer; explore the entertaining and educational websites created by the DAP; and lastly come and meet our 2025-2026 Enrique S. Camarena Award winner as he is presented with his award. This is the most prestigious award within the DAP and the history behind the award is spellbinding. As always, expect some surprises and giveaways. **MCP–WB Hall Room W184.**

1:30 – 4 p.m. Committee on Judiciary will be available for questions at the **Hilton Chicago Hotel in the McCormick Boardroom on the 4th floor.**

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. The Board of Grand Trustees will be available for questions at the **Hilton Chicago Hotel in the Pullman Boardroom on the 4th floor.**

2:15 – 3:30 p.m. Auditing and Accounting Committee - Introduction to Lodge Accounting for Officers seminar. **MCP–WB Hall Room W181.**

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee - All American Lodge & Americanism Essay Contests workshop. **MCP–WB Hall Room W475.**

Wednesday, July 8

8 a.m. Final Grand Lodge Session. Open Session, Members and accompanied guests are invited to attend. All District Deputy-Designates are required to attend. Memorial Service under the direction of PGER Paul R. Ryan.

9 a.m. Membership & Marketing Presentation, Rose Parade Presentation.

Installation of 2026-2027 Grand Lodge Officers by PGER Randy Shook.

Installation of 2026-2027 District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers.

All registered attendees are invited to attend. Grand Lodge Session will conclude by **11 a.m.**

Departure plans should be made accordingly. Late checkouts should be arranged with individual hotels in advance.

RITUAL SCHEDULE

EASTERN DIVISION

STATE	PRACTICE	CONTEST
	Friday, July 3	**Saturday, July 4**
1. FLORIDA	5:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.
2. NEW YORK	5:30 p.m.	9:00 a.m.
3. GEORGIA	6:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.
4. SOUTH CAROLINA	6:30 p.m.	11:00 a.m.
5. PENNSYLVANIA	7:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
6. MAINE	7:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
7. MICHIGAN	8:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
	Saturday, July 4	**Sunday, July 5**
8. OHIO	6:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.
9. NEW JERSEY	6:30 p.m.	9:00 a.m.

WESTERN DIVISION

STATE	PRACTICE	CONTEST
	Friday, July 3	**Saturday, July 4**
1. NEBRASKA	5:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.
2. NEVADA	5:30 p.m.	9:00 a.m.
3. ARIZONA	6:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.
4. OREGON	6:30 p.m.	11:00 a.m.
5. WASHINGTON	7:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
6. MISSOURI	7:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
7. CALIFORNIA	8:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
8. NEW MEXICO	8:30 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
	Saturday, July 4	**Sunday, July 5**
8. COLORADO	5:00 p.m.	8:30 a.m.
9. OKLAHOMA	5:30 p.m.	9:30 a.m.
10. TEXAS	6:00 p.m.	10:30 a.m.

RITUAL FINALS

STATE	PRACTICE	CONTEST
	Sunday, July 5	**Monday, July 6**
Team 1	7:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
Team 2	7:30 p.m.	2:15 p.m.
Team 3	8:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.
Team 4	8:30 p.m.	4:45 p.m.

CALLICOTT 11 O'CLOCK TOAST CONTEST SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 5
McCormick Place – West Building • Chicago, Illinois

EAST

AREAS 1 & 2
1:00 p.m.

MD-DE-DC
New Jersey
Pennsylvania
Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New York
Rhode Island
Vermont

AREA 3
1:45 p.m.

Alabama
Florida
Georgia
Mississippi
North Carolina
South Carolina
Tennessee

AREA 4
2:30 p.m.

Indiana
Kentucky
Michigan
Ohio
Virginia
West Virginia

WEST

AREAS 5 & 7
1:00 p.m.

Arizona
California
Hawaii
Nevada
Utah
Illinois
Iowa
Minnesota
Missouri
Wisconsin

AREA 6
1:45 p.m.

Arkansas
Colorado
Kansas
Louisiana
Nebraska
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Texas

AREA 8
2:30 p.m.

Alaska
Idaho
Montana
North Dakota
Oregon
South Dakota
Washington
Wyoming

FINAL FOUR TOAST TIMES

Monday, July 6
McCormick Place – West Building • Chicago, Illinois

Starting at 10:30 a.m.

Contestant 1 • Contestant 2 • Contestant 3 • Contestant 4

Note: *The preliminaries and finals for the 11 O'Clock Toast and Flag Charge contests will run concurrently.*

MULHOLLAND FLAG CHARGE CONTEST SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 5
McCormick Place – West Building • Chicago, Illinois

EAST

AREAS 1 & 2
1:00 p.m.

MD-DE-DC
New Jersey
Pennsylvania
Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New York
Rhode Island
Vermont

AREA 3
1:45 p.m.

Alabama
Florida
Georgia
Mississippi
North Carolina
South Carolina
Tennessee

AREA 4
2:30 p.m.

Indiana
Kentucky
Michigan
Ohio
Virginia
West Virginia

WEST

AREAS 5 & 7
1:00 p.m.

Arizona
California
Hawaii
Nevada
Utah
Illinois
Iowa
Minnesota
Missouri
Wisconsin

AREA 6
1:45 p.m.

Arkansas
Colorado
Kansas
Louisiana
Nebraska
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Texas

AREA 8
2:30 p.m.

Alaska
Idaho
Montana
North Dakota
Oregon
South Dakota
Washington
Wyoming

FINAL FOUR FLAG CHARGE TIMES

Monday, July 6
McCormick Place – West Building • Chicago, Illinois

Starting at 10:30 a.m.

Contestant 1 • Contestant 2 • Contestant 3 • Contestant 4

Note: *The preliminaries and finals for the 11 O'Clock Toast and Flag Charge contests will run concurrently.*

ENF IN CHICAGO

The Elks National Foundation has exciting events and presentations planned for you. Here are some highlights:

ENF AT THE OPENING CEREMONIES

Don't miss the Foundation's presentation during Sunday's Opening Ceremony!

Sunday, July 5 | 4 p.m.
McCormick Place - West Building

THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT: MEET THE ELKS SCHOLARS

Elks scholars will be at the convention center to talk to the people who have helped make their scholarships possible. Be sure to greet these outstanding members of the #ElksFamily.

Sunday, July 5
McCormick Place - West Building

STANDING IN THE HALL OF FAME: MEET THE ELKS HOOP SHOOT GETTY POWELL WINNERS

The 2026 National Finals highest scoring boy and girl overall, along with their families, will be on site at the convention center to meet adoring fans. Be sure to say hello to the best youth free-throw shooters in America!

Sunday, July 5
McCormick Place - West Building

The ENF has planned several events and presentations for convention, including seminars on fundraising and grants.

Photos: Elks National Foundation

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

SEMINARS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

When planning your schedule for the 2026 Elks National Convention in Chicago, don't miss the following Elks National Foundation sessions. Seating is limited for all of our seminars, and admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. **Doors open 30 minutes before seminars begin.** For more information, email enf@elks.org or call (773) 755-4728.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS PROGRAM: #ELKSALWAYSCARE

This session is an opportunity to learn more about the 2026-27 grant specifics, including a $500 increase to the Spotlight Grant and best practices for grant use.

Sunday, July 5 | 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.
McCormick Place - West Building, Room W187

ELKS HOOP SHOOT: UNLEASHING GRITTY KIDS

Learn about what's in store for the upcoming season and how you can help develop gritty kids!

Monday, July 6 | 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
McCormick Place - West Building, Room W475

ENF FUNDRAISING CHAIRS: BACK TO BASICS—FUNDRAISING 101

This session will break down the art and science of fundraising, and provide best practices to apply in your Lodge. Though the content for this seminar is designed for ENF Fundraising Chairs, all are welcome to attend.

Monday, July 6 | 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
McCormick Place - West Building, Room W184

*Rooms are subject to change. Visit our website, elks.org/enf, for more information.

Elks National Foundation, Inc.

CHICAGO

Chicago, Illinois, welcomes Members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks for the 161st Grand Lodge Convention. Located on the shores of Lake Michigan, Chicago is the largest city in the state and the third most-populous city in the nation. This city on the lake boasts a rich variety of attractions, including premier museums, magnificent skyscrapers, and stunning parks, not to mention world-class shopping and dining.

Some of the city's most impressive architectural landmarks can be seen while on a Chicago River cruise.

Photo: Alejandro Reyes/Choose Chicago

Chicago is also home to the Elks National Memorial and Headquarters, which commemorates our nation's veterans. Located in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood, the Elks National Memorial, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, is about seven miles north of this year's convention headquarters, McCormick Place. The journey between the two offers a convenient way to experience much of what Chicago has to offer.

Less than a mile north of McCormick Place, Chicago's Museum Campus is home to three renowned museums: the Field Museum, the Shedd Aquarium, and the Adler Planetarium. Each offers an extensive selection of exhibits for all ages. Along the lakefront, which is accessible by foot via the Lakefront Trail and by car along DuSable Lake Shore Drive, visitors can enjoy Grant Park, with its magnificent Clarence F. Buckingham Memorial Fountain, before arriving at the Art Institute of Chicago, which houses a thoughtfully curated collection from all over the world.

The Art Institute boasts a large, impressive collection.

Photo: Spirit of America/Adobe Stock

Continuing north along Michigan Avenue, downtown Chicago's main thoroughfare, visitors can walk

through Millennium Park, with world-famous features such as the reflective sculpture Cloud Gate—locally known as the Bean—and the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, an outdoor bandshell. Another attraction on the lakefront is Navy Pier, situated just a mile northeast of Millenium Park, which features a Ferris wheel, shops, and free summer fireworks displays.

Fireworks over Navy Pier
Photo: Barry Butler/Choose Chicago

The heart of downtown Chicago, the Magnificent Mile, is just a short walk west from Navy Pier. This thirteen-block corridor centered on North Michigan Avenue features premier stores and boutiques as well as some of the city's most impressive architectural landmarks, including the white terra-cotta Wrigley Building, the Gothic-style Tribune Building, and the skyscraper formerly known as the John Hancock Tower, from which visitors can enjoy panoramic views of the city and the lake from 1,030 feet above street level. This vibrant district also features some classic Chicago cuisine. Portillo's, located at 100 West Ontario Street, offers Chicago-style hot dogs and Italian beef sandwiches, while Pizzeria Uno and its sister restaurant Pizzeria Due—on East Ohio Street and North Wabash Street, respectively—serve up the original Chicago deep-dish pizza.

A Chicago-style hot dog comes with sport peppers, mustard, and more.
Photo: Alejandro Reyes/Choose Chicago

At the north end of the Magnificent Mile, visitors will find themselves less than a mile south of Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood, which is home to other popular attractions, including the Lincoln Park Zoo, the Lincoln Park Conservatory, and North Pond Nature Sanctuary. The Elks National Memorial and Headquarters, the stunning Beaux Arts-style building that is a true gem of Elkdom, is also situated at the far end of this neighborhood and is a must-see attraction for visiting Elks. Whether enjoying the wonders of the Elks National Memorial, experiencing the cultural delights of a museum, or soaking up the sun along the lakefront, this year's conventiongoers are sure to love the Windy City.

SHUTTLE SERVICE

ROUTES, HOTELS, AND BOARDING FOR CONVENTION CENTER

Complimentary shuttle service is provided between the McCormick Place – West Building and the following hotels.

Route RED	Boarding Location
Hilton Chicago	*8th Street Entrance*

Route BLUE	Boarding Location
The Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel	*Wabash Entrance.*

Route YELLOW	Boarding Location
Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Chicago	*On Martin Luther King Dr. Main Entrance — LIMITED SERVICE*
Marriott Marquis Chicago	*Main Entrance on Prairie — LIMITED SERVICE*

HOURS OF OPERATION

Shuttles to and from the McCormick Place – West Building operate at 15-20 minute intervals, except where noted. The last bus leaves from the hotels 30 minutes prior to the published end time. The last bus leaves from the convention center at the published end time. Schedule may vary due to traffic and weather conditions.

Saturday, July 4	**8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.***
Sunday, July 5	**8:00 a.m. – Close of Ceremony**
Monday, July 6	**7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** **1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.***
Tuesday, July 7	**7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** **1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.***
Wednesday, July 8	**7:00 a.m. – Close of Session**

Departs convention center every 30 minutes on the hour and half-hour.

Call toll free **(630) 805-0752** for shuttle inquiries and for wheelchair assisted service pickups.

Please allow 45 minutes for the shuttle's arrival.

Special transportation is available only for service and times listed.

SCAN ME

Shuttle schedule

ELKS MEMORIAL BUILDING SHUTTLE SERVICE

Complimentary shuttle service is provided between the Elks Memorial Building and the following hotels.

Route BROWN	Boarding Location
Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Chicago	*On Martin Luther King Drive, Main Entrance*

Route PINK	Boarding Location
Marriott Marquis Chicago	*Main Entrance on Prairie*

Route GREEN	Boarding Location
Hilton Chicago	*8th Street Entrance*

Route BLACK	Boarding Location
The Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel	*Wabash Entrance*

HOURS OF OPERATION

Shuttles to and from the Elks Memorial Building operate at 45-60 minute intervals, except where noted. The last bus leaves from the hotels 1 hour prior to the published end time. The last bus leaves from the Memorial Building at the published end time. Schedule may vary due to traffic and weather conditions.

Saturday, July 4	**8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** *INVITATION ONLY*
	11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.*
Sunday, July 5	**8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
Monday, July 6	**12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**
Tuesday, July 7	**12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

****Departs convention center every 20 minutes.***

Whether enjoying the Elks National Memorial, a museum, or the lakefront, this year's convention attendees are sure to love the city.

Photo: Barry Butler Photography/ Choose Chicago

CONVENTION HOTELS

Grand Lodge—Hilton Chicago.

Alabama—Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Chicago.

Alaska—Marriott Marquis Chicago. Hours will be posted at the hotel.

Arizona—Hilton Chicago. Every day: 7:30pm–11:30pm; Sat, Sun, Tues: 11:30am–5:30pm; Mon: 10am–2pm.

Arkansas—The Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel.

California/Hawaii—Hilton Chicago.

Colorado—The Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel. Sun, Mon: 6–10pm; Tues 6–9pm.

Connecticut—The Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel. Sat: 7pm–Midnight; Sun: Noon–3pm (CT Elks only) & 7pm–Midnight; Mon & Tues: Noon–5pm (CT Elks only Noon–2pm) & 7pm–Midnight; Wed: Noon–4pm (CT Elks only Noon–2pm). Room reopens following Connecticut Elks dinner until midnight.

Florida—Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Chicago.

Georgia—Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Chicago.

Idaho—Marriott Marquis Chicago. Hours will be posted at the hotel.

Illinois—Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Chicago.

Indiana—Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Chicago. Every day: Noon–6pm (IN Elks only); every day: 6–11:20pm.

Iowa—Hilton Chicago. Sat through Tues: 5–11pm; Tues: 4–7pm (IA Elks only).

Kansas—Hilton Chicago. Sat: 7–10pm; Sun: 6–10pm; Mon: 1–5pm & 7–10pm. Tues: 1–4pm, 7–10pm;

Kentucky—Hilton Chicago. Closed after Eleven O'Clock Toast.

Louisiana—Hilton Chicago.

Maine—The Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel. Open to Maine Elks only until after the Opening Ceremony. Open to all Elks until 11pm through Wednesday evening.

Massachusetts—The Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel. Fri: 6pm–Midnight; Sat: Noon–6pm & 8pm–Midnight; Sun: Noon–2pm & 7pm–Midnight; Mon: Noon–6pm & 8pm–Midnight (MA Elks only 8–Midnight); Tues: Noon–6pm & 8pm–Midnight; Wed: Noon–4pm.

MD, DE, & DC—The Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel. Sat: 1–11pm; Sun: 1–3pm (MD, DE, & DC Elks only) & 7–11pm; Mon: 1–11pm; Tues: 1–5pm & 7–11pm; Wed: 1–6pm.

Michigan—Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Chicago. Thurs: 7–10pm; Fri: 3–5pm & 7-11pm; Sat: 1–5pm & 7–11pm; Sun: Noon–3pm & 7–11pm; Mon: 2–5pm & 7–11pm; Tues: 2–5pm & 10pm–Midnight.

Minnesota—Hilton Chicago. Fri: 7–11pm (MN Elks only); Sat: 7–11pm; Sun: 10am–2pm; Mon: 7–11pm; Tues 4–9 pm.

Mississippi—Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Chicago.

Missouri—Marriott Marquis Chicago. Sun: 11am–3pm (MO Elks only) & 6–11pm; Mon and Tues: 11am–1pm (MO Elks only) & 1–11pm.

Montana—Marriott Marquis Chicago. Hours will be posted at the hotel.

AND HOSPITALITY SUITES

Nebraska—Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Chicago. Sun: After Opening Ceremony until 9:30pm. Mon: 4–11pm; Tues: 4–11pm. Fri & Sat: NE Elks only.

Nevada—Hilton Chicago.

New Hampshire—The Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel. Sat: 3–11pm; Sun: After Opening Ceremony until 11pm; Mon through Wed: 3–11pm. Every day: NH Elks only until 3pm.

New Jersey—Marriott Marquis Chicago.

New Mexico—Hilton Chicago.

New York—Marriott Marquis Chicago. Sun through Tues: 8–11pm.

North Carolina—The Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel. Sat: 3–11pm (NC Elks only); Sun: 6–11:30pm; Mon: 2–11:30pm; Tues: 2–11:30pm.

North Dakota—Marriott Marquis Chicago. Hours will be posted at the hotel.

Ohio—Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Chicago. Sat: 11:30am–3pm & 8–11:30pm; Sun: 11:30am–2:30pm & 8–11:30pm; Mon and Tues: 11:30am–3pm & 8–11:30pm.

Oklahoma—The Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel.

Oregon—Marriott Marquis Chicago. Hours will be posted at the hotel.

Pennsylvania—The Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel. Sat: Noon–5 pm & 7pm–Close; Sun: Noon–3pm & 7–11pm; Mon: Noon–5pm & 7–11pm; Tues: Noon–5pm & 7–11pm.

Rhode Island—The Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel.

South Carolina—The Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel. Fri through Tues: 1–4pm & 4–11pm (SC Elks only 4–11pm); Sun: 3–7pm & 7–8:30pm (SC Elks only 7–8:30pm).

South Dakota—Marriott Marquis Chicago. Hours will be posted at the hotel.

Tennessee—The Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel. Mon and Tues: 2–11pm.

Texas—The Palmer House a Hilton Hotel. Sat: 7–11pm (TX Elks only); Sun: 1–3pm & 7–11pm; Mon and Tues: 1–4pm & 7–11pm.

Utah—Hilton Chicago. Sat: Utah Elks only; Sun: Noon–3pm & 7–10pm; Mon: 2–10pm; Tues: 2–5pm & 8–10pm (UT Elks only 8–10pm); Wed: 2–10pm.

Virginia—Hilton Chicago. Sat through Tues: 4–11pm. Virginia Elks only on Tuesday.

Vermont—The Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel.

Washington—Marriott Marquis Chicago. Hours will be posted at the hotel.

West Virginia—Hilton Chicago. Sat: 1–4pm & 7–Midnight; Sun: 1–3:30pm & 7pm–Midnight; Mon: 1–3pm & 7pm–Midnight; Tues 2–4:30pm (WV Elks only) & 7pm–Midnight.

Wisconsin—Marriott Marquis Chicago. Fri & Sat: Noon–11pm; Sun: 6–11pm; Mon: Noon–11pm; Tues: Noon–3pm & 8:30–11pm.

Wyoming—Marriott Marquis Chicago. Hours will be posted at the hotel.

LOCAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE

2026 Chicago, Illinois

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Past Grand Exalted Ruler

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Information Booth ..... Kristi J. Hornung
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Ushers ..... Paul Ronzani, *PDDGER, PSP*
Legislative Assts. ..... Steven L. Harken, *PDDGER, PSP*
Opening Session ..... Dennis Gerleman, *PDDGER, PSP*
Todd Lindsay, *PDDGER, PSP*
Green Room ..... Earl J. Mika Jr., *PER*
Rita A. Mika, *Lodge Secretary*
Registration Control ..... Floyd Schmidt, *PDDGER, PSP*
Entertainment ..... Michael A. Hozian, *DDGER*
Ritual ..... Jessica Mitchell, *PDDGER*

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Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., PGER, *Vice-Chairman*
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T. Keith Mills, PGER, *Member*
Robert L. Duitsman, PGER, *Member*
Tina M. Haran, *Director*
Jessica M. Ruiz, *Meetings Coordinator*

Thank You . . .

To the Illinois Elks Local Support Committee.

To the Oak Lawn Elks Honor Guard, from Oak Lawn, IL Lodge No. 2254.

To Ragan Sullivan, Convention Vocalist, from North Little Rock, Arkansas Lodge No. 1004.

To Scott Kirstein, Center Coordinator; Michael Clark, Media Coordinator; Scott Flota, Coordinator; Marcus Kirstein, Exhibits Coordinator; Roland "Smiley" Seibert, Exhibits Coordinator Emeritus; and Edgar Manwaring, Sessions Coordinator Emeritus.

OFFICE INFORMATION

ROOM AND PHONE NUMBERS

Room W474

Accounting	Insurance
Convention	Magazine
Elks National Foundation	Shipping
Grand Secretary	CLMS

HOURS

Saturday, July 4 ..... 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, July 5 ..... 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monday, July 6 ..... 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 7 ..... 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Newsletter — W471A

Grand Lodge Public Relations & Membership Marketing — Room W476

CONVENTION PUBLICATIONS

Go paperless! Access Elks National Convention materials online with your smartphone camera by scanning the QR codes for the Program, Daily News, and Resolutions.

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Program

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