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LODGE MEETINGS

July 06, 2026

July 20, 2026

All members are invited.



From the Desk of the Grand Exalted Ruler

Thanks to the Elks for everything they do!

Happy Independence Day, the Fourth of July. Happy America 250! We live in the greatest country on the face of the earth.

We as proud Elks uphold the virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity in order to honor our great nation and organization.

Did the last twelve months fly by for you as they did for me and First Lady Sue? My, weren't we in Kansas City last week? The old adage "time flies when having fun" is fitting.

The easy part of staying enthused week after week was visiting each state and the Members thereof.

Sue and I want to thank each and every one of you for your assistance, hospitality, and support during our year as Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady.

Each of you are the reason we are 800,000 Members strong with more than 1,780 Local Lodges who form the greatest charitable organization in the United States of America.

We are strong and mighty, and we are blessed to be citizens in our great country.

God bless each and every one of you. God bless the BPOE, and God bless the United States of America. Always remember my motto, Be The Difference, as we are 158 years young!

Always remember to Be The Difference by promoting "Elks Care—Elks Share."

Fraternally,
Bryan Klatt,
Grand Exalted Ruler

www.Elks.org

www.KSelks.org/ElDorado/ElDorado.asp

www.facebook.com/ELDoradoelks

Flag Day Celebration

By *Sean Cutsinger*

Sunday June 14, Phil Wickwire lead the troops for our annual Flag Day Celebration at Forest Park Band Shell. It was a wonderful evening full of hotdogs, great music that was provided by the city band and wonderful friends to visit with. Thank you to Stan Willis for providing the 250th flags for the celebration. Thank you to all the workers who helped cook, wrapped hotdogs and hauled all the supplies to the park. Thank you to our partners the American Legion and the VFW. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.



FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAPLAIN AND EDITOR AND WRITER

By *Sean Cutsinger*

Hello, my fellow members, I hope this finds you all well. Today the United States is celebrating 250th anniversary (the Semi quincentennial). This

July 4, 2026, marks 250 years since the Declaration of Independence was signed. El Dorado just had their parade, and we are getting ready to feed the Wardogs and the Walnuts ball teams that we will enjoy watching play some baseball later today followed by some amazing fireworks. Enjoy the day and remember what we are celebrating. I just watched the movie *Young Washington*, this is one of the greatest films I have ever watched. I highly recommend watching this film.

The following is from History.com. I did not write this, but I found it interesting and fitting after watching the movie. Author unknown.

The Declaration of Independence, adopted on July 4, 1776, formally announced the American colonies' separation from Great Britain and justified their right to self-governance.

Background and Context

The movement toward independence began amid growing tensions between the American colonies and the British government in the early 1770s. Colonists increasingly viewed Parliament as oppressive and corrupt, imposing taxes and laws without their consent. Armed conflict erupted in April 1775 with the Battles of Lexington and Concord, marking the start of the American Revolutionary War. By August 1775, King George III declared the colonies in "open and avowed rebellion," and Parliament passed the American Prohibitory Act, treating the colonies as foreign entities and escalating the push for independence [National Archives+1](#).

The Lee Resolution and the Committee of Five

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia introduced the Lee Resolution in the Continental Congress, stating that the colonies "are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States" [National Archives+1](#). To formally announce and justify this decision, Congress appointed a Committee of Five on June 11, 1776, consisting of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert R. Livingston, and Roger Sherman. Thomas Jefferson, recognized for his writing skills, was tasked with drafting the initial text of the Declaration [Wikipedia+1](#).

Drafting and Adoption

Jefferson wrote the first draft between June 11 and June 28, 1776, articulating the colonies' grievances against King George III and asserting the natural rights of individuals, famously stating that "all men are created equal" and endowed with "unalienable Rights" including "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" [Encyclopedia Britannica](#). The draft was reviewed and edited by the Committee of Five and the Continental Congress. On July 2, 1776, Congress voted in favor of independence, and on July 4, the Declaration was formally adopted, providing a political, moral, and legal justification for the colonies' separation from Britain [Wikipedia+1](#).

Printing, Signatures, and Distribution

John Dunlap, the official printer to Congress, produced approximately 200 copies of the Declaration, known as the Dunlap Broadides, which were distributed to colonial assemblies, committees, and military leaders [National Archives](#). The engrossed version, prepared for formal signatures, was signed by most delegates on August 2, 1776, with John Hancock's signature prominently displayed. In total, 56 delegates eventually signed the document [Encyclopedia Britannica](#).

JULY BIRTHDAYS

03 Samuel Kendall
04 Will Carpenter
18 Jackie Vinson
20 Rick Kennedy
21 Richard Lemaster
25 Jake Myers
26 James Clennan
27 John Grange

PILLBOX DRAWING

Must be present at meetings to win.

06-01-26 \$10.00

Valerie Bean

06-18-26 \$20.00

Drew Wilson

07-06-26 \$30.00



EVERY THURSDAY

at 7:00 p.m.

Early Bird at 6:00 p.m.

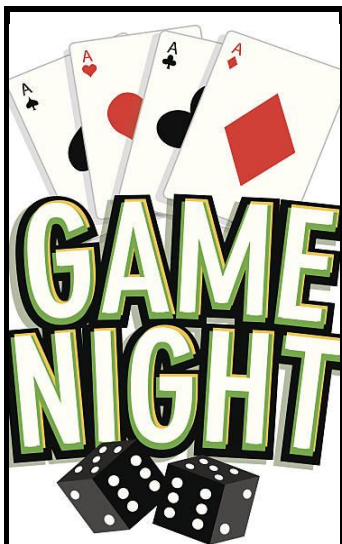
DOORS OPEN

at 5:00 p.m.

EVENT BOOKINGS

If you are planning a special event, like a Wedding, anniversary birthday party, or class reunions, please let a member know or call

316-321-9393



Game Night

By *Sean Cutsinger*

Monday June 08, 2026. Loren Anthony hosted the Yahtzee tournament to help support KETCH. Stan Willis was the big winner of the evening.



4th of July Parade
Saturday, July 4
Parade starts at 9 a.m.
Downtown El Dorado



**Elks
National
Foundation**

The Declaration of Independence not only marked the birth of the United States as a sovereign nation but also became a foundational text for democratic ideals worldwide. It articulated the principle that governments derive their power from the consent of the governed and that people have the right to alter or abolish unjust governments. Its influence extended beyond the Revolutionary War, shaping the development of American political philosophy and inspiring movements for liberty and human rights globally [Wikipedia+1](#).

The original parchment of the Declaration is now preserved in the National Archives in Washington, D.C., alongside the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, symbolizing its enduring importance in American history [Encyclopedia Britannica](#).

If there is something you would like to see in the newsletter email me at SeanCutsinger@gmail.com. God Bless Each and Every One of Us. I pray that you all have a healthy and safe month.

Happy 250th America!!!



TLC Hospice Flower Box!

By *Sean Cutsinger*

Thank you to Loren and Jackie Anthony for giving me a new picture with the flowers in the Flower Box that was donated a few years back at the TLC / Hospice Unit at the VA hospital in Wichita. They are beautiful. Thank you for everything you do for these folks

August 04 - National Night Out

September 24-26 - Gold Fest

September - Local Soccer Shoot

October - District and State Soccer Shoot

October 10 - Bi-Annual Steak Feed

October 17 - Nevan Castenada

October -30 Trick-or-Treat Down Main Street 4:00 pm

November 7-8 - Mid-America Soccer Shoot

December 05 - Old Fashioned Christmas Parade 5:30 pm



Per Member Standings in the State

# 01 Overland Park at \$77.22	# 07 Atchison at \$17.78	# 13 Goodland at \$5.86
# 02 El Dorado at \$46.06	# 08 Parsons at \$16.36	# 14 Fort Scott at \$5.63
# 03 Garden City at \$24.00	# 09 Clay Center at \$10.89	# 15 Junction City at \$5.57
# 04 Ottawa at \$21.83	# 10 Hoxie at \$8.01	# 16 Chanute at \$5.53
# 05 Pratt at \$21.05	# 11 Abilene at \$7.85	# 17 Osawatomie at \$5.49
# 06 Russell at \$20.87	# 12 Iola at \$7.02	

Thank you everyone for your continued support. As of **03-31-2026** the State of Kansas donated \$64,315.46 to finish the year. That is \$16.32 per member of the 3,940 members in the state. The ENF goal was \$5.15 per member for the 2025-2026 year. ENF is how our programs and grants are funded. The easiest way to donate is to become a Club Member. This is a monthly recurring donation that comes out each month automatically, either from your bank account or credit card. Please remember that April started our new year, so let's do this again! Please donate. Hopefully, we will have new information soon, but in the meantime, please continue to donate as this goes to a great cause. *Sean*

JULY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	01	02 Lodge Bingo 6:00 PM Kitchen: Lisa	03 4th celebration E Park 5:15 pm	04 Parade 9 am Wardogs lunch noon Happy 4th
05	06 Lodge Meeting 7:00 PM	07	08	09 Lodge Bingo 6:00 PM Kitchen: Deb	10	11
12	13 Game Night 6:00 PM	14	15	16 Lodge Bingo 6:00 PM Kitchen: Barbara	17	18
19	20 Lodge Meeting 7:00 PM	21	22	23 Lodge Bingo 6:00 PM Kitchen: Yvonne	24	25
26 Happy Parents' Day	27	28	29 Buck Moon	30 Lodge Bingo 6:00 PM Kitchen: Lisa	31	01

LODGE OFFICERS



Exalted Ruler: John Britt jbritt2929@gmail.com	Leading Knight: Deb Kirkpatrick debkirkbritt@gmail.com	Loyal Knight: Tony Allison tony.allison@intrustbank.com	Lecturing Knight: Curtis Zieman czieman750@gmail.com	Tiler: Vacant
Esquire: Billy Jackson billy@sungroupprealstate.com	Chaplain: Sean Cutsinger seancutsinger@gmail.com	Inner Guard: Danny Morrow d9299morrow@gmail.com	Treasurer: Stan Willis willisstan35@yahoo.com	Secretary: Lisa Jack lisa@jackins.com
1yr Trustee: Rodger Decker Rdecker3@cox.net	2yr Trustee: Roger Cutsinger cutsingerroger@gmail.com	3yr Trustee: Tom Clark Tclark69@cox.net	4yr Trustee: Karen Andersen l.kandersen@sbcglobal.net	5yr Trustee: Ron Woodard rww@umich.edu