



Buckeye Elks Lodge #2686

The Desert Sign

Volume 42 | Number 4 | April 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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bpoe2686@gmail.com

Office Hours
Wednesday
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Message from the Exalted Ruler

Fellow Elks,

As I step into the role of Exalted Ruler, I want to start with a simple thank you. I've watched many of you give selflessly over the years, pouring your time and energy into making this lodge what it is today. Getting to partner with you in a new way is something I'm genuinely excited about. Your vote of confidence means a lot to me, and I don't take the responsibility lightly.

Our lodge was built on traditions that go back over a century and a half... Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity. They show up every time we gather, every time we serve our community, and every time we look out for one another. I want us to lean into those traditions, as the foundation for what we build upon. These are the values that bring us together, and the ones that'll keep us growing.

And that brings me to what I think is the biggest opportunity ahead of us, getting more of our members involved. We have no shortage of great ideas and talented people in this lodge. What I'd love to see this year is more of you stepping up, whether that's volunteering at an event, hosting a dinner, joining a committee or simply showing up more often. The more we participate, the more events and activities we can bring to life for our community.

My door is always open. If you have an idea for an event, want to get more involved, or just want to talk about where we're headed, please don't hesitate to reach out. This is your lodge, and I want it to reflect what matters to all of us.

Here's to a great year ahead.

Fraternally,
Adam Ramsdell (Other Adam)

Message from the Secretary

The new dues statements have been sent out. You will notice that Grand Lodge Dues have decreased! So our Lodge's dues of **\$85** will cover all dues and ENF donations for our Lodge. Those ENF donations allow our Lodge to get more grants for our community! Please, if you have any questions, email me at bpoe2686@gmail.com. Thank you!



Facebook



Instagram



Website

ELKS BITS AND PIECES

- Lodge Meetings** — Our Regular Lodge Meetings for April are on the 8th & 22nd. Meeting start time is 6:00 PM. Officers: mark your calendars! Members are welcome and encouraged to attend our Regular Lodge Meetings!
- Membership** — Our current membership is at 187, and we are looking forward to initiating more in the future. If you have a future Elk in mind, bring them in!
- Delinquent Dues** — Please drop off your dues in-person or mail them in, if you haven't already!!
- A Good Elk Is an Active Elk!** — Looking for fellow Elks to be part of the many fundraising committees we have. Come into the Lodge, sign up, and help us to help our community.
- AZ Elks Training** — Sign in to www.ArizonaElksAssociation.org, and take the Elk training. There is so much you could learn about being an Elk!
- Public Relations Committee** — Please let Leatta McLaughlin or Faryn Hardin know if you would like to post something on our social media pages or website.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

187 Current Members	4 Initiated	14 Dropped/ Deceased	1 Transferred Out	101 Total Delinquent	54% Delinquent Rate
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Keep your eyes out for the next initiation!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr 6** Monday Night Dinner

- Apr 8** Lodge Meeting / B of D Meeting — 6:00 PM

- Apr 13** Monday Night Dinner

- Apr 20** Monday Night Dinner

- Apr 22** Lodge Meeting — 6:00 PM

- Apr 27** Monday Night Dinner

MONDAY NIGHT DINNERS

A big thanks for Monday Night Dinners! Thanks to all who cook for the Elk's members. Come enjoy dinner! Remember to check out our Facebook page for events and our meeting shout out. *Stop by and visit and remember to bring a friend to our dinners to help raise money for our charities.*

Want to cook for the Lodge?

Volunteer to cook for Monday Night Dinners — enough to feed 20 people.

Funds go to our general building fund for repairs and maintenance.

Sign up at the Lodge!

PRAYER CORNER

May the light of guidance shine brightly, directing us to an amazing new year full of love and hope. For those who struggled through the days, whether financially, mentally or emotionally, may the tough time pass with grace and lead the way to a brighter future. 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 or anyone you know would like to be added to the Prayer Corner, please email us at BPOE2686@gmail.com. This can be an anonymous prayer, a specific prayer, or any other prayer you would like our members to do.

MARCH IN REVIEW

ANNUAL AWARDS

Congratulations to our 2025-2026 honorees!



OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Tara Snyder

Tara Snyder is being recognized as Officer of the Year. As our Lodge's Exalted Ruler, Tara has demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment. She has made the time to attend all required clinics, as well as the Grand Lodge Annual Convention in Kansas City — no small undertaking while balancing the many responsibilities of serving as ER and having a full-time job. We know how demanding the ER position can be, and we are incredibly grateful for the dedication, grace, and steady leadership Tara brings to the role. Beyond her official duties, she is always willing to step in and help at our many Lodge events — especially when it comes to her truly exceptional dishwashing skills! Tara, thank you for everything you do to make our Lodge stronger and better. We really appreciate you.



MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Adam Ramsdell

Adam Ramsdell is being honored as Member of the Year. Adam currently serves as our Lodge's Esquire, a role that requires careful attention to detail and the consistent handling of many exacting responsibilities during our regular meetings. He carries out these duties with dedication and professionalism. Throughout the year, Adam — along with Ryen — generously donates his time to support our many Lodge events, always willing to step in wherever help is needed. We are especially grateful to Adam for stepping up and agreeing to be nominated for the role of Exalted Ruler for the upcoming year. His willingness to lead speaks volumes about his commitment to our Lodge and its future. Adam, we look forward to working alongside you in the years ahead. Thank you for your service, leadership, and continued dedication.



ELK OF THE YEAR

Brian McAchran

Brian McAchran is being awarded Elk of the Year. Brian is well known throughout our Lodge and the Buckeye community for his dedication to service. If there's an event happening in town, chances are that Brian and his wife, Christy, have a hand in it. Brian serves as the chair of our Veterans Committee and organized our Lodge's participation in the Veterans Lift Up event. He also played a key role in planning and coordinating the first-ever National Wreaths Across America ceremony at Hazelton Cemetery just a few months ago. Next week, we'll also gather for the St. Patrick's Day celebration that Brian has worked hard to put together for all of us. Brian, thank you for your continued commitment to our community and to our Lodge. We truly appreciate all that you do.



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Jeannie Stacy

Congratulations to Jeannie Stacy, our Citizen of the Year. Although Jeannie hasn't been part of our community for very long, she has already made a lasting impression — both within our Lodge and throughout the broader community. From her nonprofit work to the many events she supports locally and at the Lodge, Jeannie is someone you can always count on to step up and lend a helping hand. We are especially grateful for her leadership of our youth drug awareness committee and for the wonderful free Thanksgiving dinners she has organized over the past several years. This year, she also served our Lodge as Inner Guard, further demonstrating her dedication and commitment. Jeannie, we sincerely thank you for everything you've done for our community and our Lodge. You will truly be missed when you move.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY EXTRAVAGANZA

"The Shenanigan" — March 17, 2026



Thank you to everyone who made The Shenanigan a huge success!

Live Music • Bagpipes • Authentic Irish Food • Good Times & Sláinte!

POKER JEEP RUN

March 28, 2026 — Desert Adventures & Good Times!



GET INVOLVED

Looking for a fun way to volunteer and use your creativity?

We are looking for volunteers to help put together more events this year.

COMMITTEES

Listed below are many of our committees that are looking for volunteers. If you have ideas and want to participate in helping our Lodge and the community, please reach out to the committee chairman listed below. We have some vacant chairs available, if you are looking to help the Buckeye Elks Lodge be a successful Lodge. Our success means we are able to help the children and the veterans in our community. We are only successful because we have members who volunteer and help our events and committees be successful.

If you have any questions about any of the committees or how you can help, please see the chairman listed below or speak to any Lodge officer.

Committee	Chair
Auditing & Accounting Committee	Leatta McLaughlin
Activities Committee	Adam Hardin
Youth Activities	VACANT
Hoop Shoot Committee	Tara Snyder
Drug Awareness Committee	VACANT
Veterans Services Committee	Brian McAchrn
Accident Prevention Committee	Curtis Scott
Public Relations Committee	Leatta McLaughlin
Scholarship Committee	Faryn Hardin
Protocol Committee	Savy Frew
Clubroom Committee	Adam Hardin
State Major Project Committee	VACANT
Ritualistic Committee	VACANT
Elks National Foundation	Leatta McLaughlin
Membership Committee	VACANT

WE NEED YOU!

Vacant committee chairs need to be filled. Step up and make a difference!

DUES REMINDER

March 31, 2026 is the end of the Lodge year. If you didn't get your statement, email me at bpoe2686@gmail.com and I will send you one.

Please don't forget to add a \$5.75 ENF donation to your dues!!

ENF donation. Your ENF donation allows our Lodge to apply for grants to help our community. Some examples are the Veteran's Lift Up event, Backpack drives, Food Pantry donations.

We have 46% of our members already paid! Let's try and get this to 100% before the end of April!

Mail your payment or stop by the Lodge and drop your payment in the mailbox.
We look forward to another great Elks Month!

ONLINE ELK TRAINING

Do you know what it means to be an ELK? Go online and take the Elks training. You may learn something new about being an Elk.

Sign in to ArizonaElksAssociation.org and take the training!

"Join the ENF Fidelity Club Today"

Becoming a member of the Fidelity Club is simple! Enroll online at enf.elks.org/recurring and start gift today! If you prefer to sign up through the mail, click here for an enrollment form.

Questions? Contact enf@elks.org or (773) 755-4728 for additional information about starting a monthly gift and joining the ENF Fidelity Club.

Out of 417 Fidelity Club members in Arizona, Buckeye Elks Lodge only has 2 members. Who wants to be #3 and #4?

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

"So long as there are tears to dry, wounds to bind, and hopes to nurture — the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will not be combative, but combatant."

Charity • Justice • Brotherly Love • Fidelity

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Kathy Boerner — 4th	Sherry Herrod — 4th	Larry Holden — 4th
Scott Loughead — 9th	James Hernandez — 14th	John Tosh — 20th
Kristen Taylor — 22nd	Dorothy Lockard — 24th	Larry Mello — 24th
Stephanie Williams — 24th	Brian McAchran — 27th	Earl Neuschwander — 28th
Steven Remige — 30th		

Fun April Facts

Birthstone is the Diamond. The Titanic struck an iceberg on April 15, 1912. George Washington was inaugurated as the first U.S. President on April 30, 1789.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Curtis Scott — 1st	Dan Hardison — 5th	Bruce Heiden — 7th
Bill McLaughlin — 9th	Noel Allan Nicholls — 10th	Randy Riley — 10th
Michael Williams — 11th	Sharon Torres — 12th	Fred Mills — 13th
Richard Dobay — 14th	Tom Guidice — 14th	Isaiah Espinosa — 17th
Steve Staudinger — 18th	Lori Salveson — 19th	Jay Broadbent — 22nd
Kurt Elfstrom — 22nd	Leatta McLaughlin — 22nd	Lynn Brooks — 23rd
Neil Bushong — 23rd	Faryn Hardin — 23rd	Rocco Tito — 23rd
Adam Ramsdell — 23rd	Arthur Bert — 24th	Donald Nathaniel — 24th
Mark Lintz — 29th		

Fun May Facts

Birthstone is the Emerald. Mother's Day originated in 1908 in WV, by Anna Jarvis. In 1914, Woodrow Wilson established the official Mother's Day to be the 2nd Sunday of May in US. May is the only month that a President hasn't died.

*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.*

APRIL 2026 ACTIVITIES

Autism Awareness Month

Sun						Sat
			1 April Fool's	2	3	4
5	6 Mon Dinner	7	8 6p Lodge Mtg B of D Mtg	9	10	11
12	13 Mon Dinner	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Mon Dinner	21	22 6p Lodge Mtg	23	24	25
26	27 Mon Dinner	28	29	30		

MAY 2026 ACTIVITIES

Mother's Day — 10th | Memorial Day — 25th

Sun						Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13 5:30 BOD Mtg 6p Lodge Mtg	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27 6p Lodge Mtg	28	29	30
31						