



Buckeye Elks Lodge #2686

The Desert Sign

Volume 42 | Number 9 | September 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

Fellow Elks,

Here we are in September, and after another long Arizona summer, the finish line is finally in sight. The mornings are starting to get bearable again, and the best part of our year is just ahead. If you have been waiting for the weather to give you a reason to come back to the Lodge, this is it.

This month brings back a tradition a lot of us have missed... football! We'll have every Monday and Thursday night game playing at the Lodge over the course of the season. If your team isn't winning, Kristen and Kylie will help you drown your sorrows (responsibly, of course).

I also want to recognize the members behind our Movie Night last month and our upcoming Bunco Night! These events came together because members saw something worth doing and stepped up to rally the troops. That is how this Lodge works at its best, and it deserves to be said out loud.

Later this month, we welcome our District Deputy, Vicki Way, for her official visit on Wednesday, September 23. We're looking forward to showing her a Lodge in full swing: meetings well attended, dinners well fed, and a calendar filling back up. Come out that night and be part of it.

The summer isn't quite over yet, but the good stretch is close, and the Lodge calendar is filling up with reasons to come back. I look forward to seeing more of you around the Lodge this month.

Fraternally,

Adam Ramsdell
Exalted Ruler

Message from the Secretary

Hello Members,

Dues update: We are at 201 members with 36 who owe dues (18%). Our goal is 100% current. If you have not paid yet, please take care of it this month. You can pay in person at the Lodge or by mail.

Membership update: We welcomed 6 new members through initiation in August, bringing us to 201 members. Looking ahead, we are pleased to host our District Deputy's official visit this month, and we look forward to welcoming the West District Vice President in December. Our newest Elks initiated in August:

Gina Ragsdale · Doug Burke · Thomas Duttrey · Bo Harris · Don Kassebaum · Chip Dingman

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to me at bpoe2686@gmail.com.

Fraternally,

Lisa Schenk
Secretary

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

201

MEMBERS

36

DUES OWED

6

NEWLY INITIATED

1

FIDELITY CLUB

BITS & PIECES

1. **Lodge Meetings.** Our regular schedule is back: meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. This month that is **Wednesday, September 9** and **Wednesday, September 23**, and the 23rd carries our District Deputy official visit and a new member initiation. Come out and be part of it.
2. **Membership.** We are at 201 members, 6 newly initiated this past month. Know someone who would make a great Elk? Bring them to a meeting or dinner and let them see what we are about.
3. **Dues Owed.** We are at 18% dues owed (36 members). Please bring your dues current: pay in person at the Lodge or by mail.
4. **A Good Elk Is an Active Elk!** Volunteer for a committee. Sign up at the Lodge. Every pair of hands makes a difference.
5. **AZ Elks Training.** Online training available at arizonaelksassociation.org. Learn what it means to be an Elk!
6. **Monday Night Dinners.** Every Monday in September at 5:30 PM. \$10 per person, members and guests welcome. Great food, great company, and every dinner supports our roof replacement fund. Still to come this month: **September 14** (Italian night), **September 21** (teriyaki chicken and rice), and **September 28** (chicken stir fry). Check elks2686.org for weekly menu confirmation.

Heads Up: Dinner Nights Move to Tuesdays in October

Starting in October, dinner nights move from Mondays to Tuesdays. Same good food and company, and Monday nights stay free for football.

FOOTBALL IS BACK ON THE TVS

Monday & Thursday night games all season long

With the NFL season underway, the games are back on the Lodge TVs. Thursday night games this month are September 17 and 24, and Monday Night Football lands right on our dinner nights three times this month: September 14, 21, and 28. Dinner and the game together. Come eat with us and stay for the kickoff.

UPCOMING AT THE LODGE

Dinners, meetings, Bunco, and football on the TVs

Monday Night Dinners

Every Monday · 5:30 PM · \$10 per person

Our Monday Night Dinners continue every week, and members and guests are welcome. Every dinner supports our roof replacement fund, and with football season starting up, the games will be on the TVs. Still to come this month:

Sept 14 Italian Night

Sept 21 Teriyaki Chicken & Rice

Sept 28 Chicken Stir Fry

As always, check the Lodge Facebook page or [elks2686.org](https://www.facebook.com/elks2686) for any updates.

★ MEMBER-RUN EVENT

Bunco Night

Friday, September 18 · 6:00 PM

Join us for a fun night of Bunco, friends, food, and prizes! Elks members and their guests are welcome. This event came together because members volunteered to run it. Come support their effort and have a great night doing it.

\$10 per person

Includes **four rounds** of play

Lodge Meetings

Wednesdays, Sept 9 & 23 · 6:00 PM

Our Regular Lodge Meetings return to the normal schedule: Wednesday, September 9, and Wednesday, September 23, both at 6:00 PM. All members welcome. The September 23 meeting includes our District Deputy's official visit and a new member initiation.

District Deputy Official Visit

Wednesday, September 23 · 6:00 PM

Our District Deputy, Vicki Way, makes her official visit to Buckeye #2686 during the September 23 meeting. This is a night to show the district what our Lodge looks like in full swing. Come out, be seen, and be part of the showing.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ruth Aumack, 3rd	Whitney Haddad, 3rd	Marshall Grandy, 5th
Pierpaolo Mangeruga, 15th	Mark Mann, 17th	Veronica Thompson, 20th
Les Heiden, 21st	Alyssa Benson, 24th	Arthur Mailloux, 26th
James Bagwell, 27th	Jonathan Armour, 27th	Bob Astraus, 28th

Happy Birthday to all our September Elks!

Fun September Facts

The very first Monday Night Football game aired on September 21, 1970, with the Browns beating the Jets 31 to 21.

This year, September 21 is a Monday Night Dinner and MNF night at the Lodge.

Labor Day became a federal holiday in 1894, when President Grover Cleveland signed it into law.

Fall officially arrives on Tuesday, September 22 at 5:05 PM Arizona time, the moment of the autumn equinox.

Buckeye was originally named Sidney, after founder Malin Jackson's hometown in Ohio. The name changed to Buckeye in 1910 in honor of the Buckeye Canal.

PRAYER CORNER

For a New Season

As the long summer gives way to cooler days,
we give thanks for the season ahead and for this Lodge that gathers us in.

Bless the hands that cook our dinners, the members who step up to lead,
and the new Elks who have joined our circle.

Make us welcoming to every guest who walks through our doors,
and faithful to the work that brings us together.

Keep us mindful of those who are sick, grieving, or far from home,
and let no member feel forgotten.

Amen.

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

JUST A LITTLE MEMO

Follow us on Facebook at **Buckeye Elks Lodge No 2686**. Check elks2686.org for Monday Night Dinner confirmation and the weekly menu. The Lodge is located at 109 N. 5th Street, Buckeye, AZ 85326. Phone: (623) 386-4710.

SEPTEMBER 2026 ACTIVITIES

Bunco Night on the 18th | District Deputy Official Visit on the 23rd

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day Monday Dinner	8	9 Lodge Meeting 6p	10	11	12
13	14 Monday Dinner & MNF	15	16	17 Thursday Night Football	18 ★ Bunco Night 6p	19
20	21 Monday Dinner & MNF	22	23 ★ Lodge Meeting & DD Official Visit 6p	24 Thursday Night Football	25	26
27	28 Monday Dinner & MNF	29	30			

Monday Dinner = Monday Night Dinner, 5:30 PM, \$10/person. **MNF** = Monday Night Football on the Lodge TVs. Check elks2686.org for this week’s menu & confirmation! **Starting in October, dinner nights move to Tuesdays.**

ENF FIDELITY CLUB

A small commitment that comes back to Buckeye

Our Buckeye Lodge Fidelity Club participation is still low, just 1 member out of 436 statewide. Fidelity Club memberships support the Elks National Foundation, which funds community grants and scholarships right back to our Lodge. Every bit helps. Talk to Lisa or stop by the Lodge office to sign up.

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