



Deep Creek Elks #2763 The Bugle

August 2026

From Our Exalted Ruler

Dear Members,

As part of my commitment to you, our members, to continually improve your experience each time you visit our Lodge, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Scott Helgeland, PER, as our new House Committee Chairman, effective July 27, 2026.



Scott's proven leadership, organizational skills, and dedication to our Lodge make him an outstanding choice for this important role. Having previously served as our Exalted Ruler and House Committee Chairman, he brings valuable experience and a clear understanding of both the opportunities and challenges the position presents. More importantly, Scott shares our vision of continuing to make our great Lodge an even better place for our members, their families, and our guests.

I would like to sincerely thank Scott for accepting this appointment and for his continued commitment to serving our members and our Lodge. His willingness to step forward and lead is a testament to the spirit of volunteerism that makes our Lodge so special.

Please join me in congratulating Scott and offering him your full support as he begins this new chapter of service. By working together, we can continue building on our successes and moving our Lodge forward.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to all of our members for your patience and understanding during our recent plumbing projects. We know these improvements have caused some temporary inconveniences, but they are an important investment in our Lodge's future. Your support and cooperation throughout the process have been greatly appreciated.

As we look ahead to August, we have an exciting lineup of events planned for everyone to enjoy. I encourage you to check the Lodge calendar, FB posts, and the Saturday Bulletin and bring your family and friends to our outstanding events. Your participation is what keeps our Lodge vibrant and successful.

Thank you for your continued support, dedication, and pride in our Lodge. I look forward to seeing you at the Lodge throughout August as we continue making our Lodge the best it can be.

Fraternally,
Jed
Exalted Ruler

Ladies of the Elks Check In

Hello All,

The Ladies continue to take orders for the Elks “bling” shirts and jackets. This is a fundraiser for Fairytale Endings, a local pet rescue organization. Order sheets are located by the cashier station.

The Breast Cancer Committee is working hard on our 2nd annual Florida Breast Cancer Foundation Fundraiser. Mark your calendars: the date of the fundraiser is Oct. 6, 2026. More details to follow.

In August, the LOE will be selling Lottery tree tickets and we are planning a Visani's night on Aug. 19. Both are fundraisers for the breast cancer event. Plans are in the works for a quarter auction.

Please join us at the Lodge every Monday for Show Me the Money.

Our next LOE meeting is Thursday, Aug. 13th at 11 a.m. in the Veterans' Room.

Fraternally,
Pam Setchell

House Committee Report To Members

Hi everyone,

It is my distinct honor to be asked by our ER to fill this important role of House Committee Chair.

Having worked on the house committee in the past, I am quite pleased to work on the Committee again. I came to understand very quickly two-and-a-half years ago as a new ER how vital the House Committee is to the overall success of the Lodge. A number of the members stepped into this important role at my request, and all were a major component in our mission to turn our Lodge into a place where our members feel at home.



I look forward to furthering the vision of our new ER, and working to continue making Deep Creek Elks 2763 the envy of our District and State, and the pride and joy of our numerous members. The dedication of the house committee has been the cornerstone of our success.

I embrace the challenges we will face, and I especially look forward to celebrating our continued success. Thank you ER Jed for trusting me with this very important role. I'm excited!

Respectfully,
Scott

Board Of Directors Report To Membership

Dear Members,

We hope you're enjoying a great summer and taking advantage of the many activities our Lodge offers.

The re-plumbing project is now about 90% complete. The men's room is the final phase. We appreciate your patience as we finish this important upgrade. You may have noticed the Lodge is looking cleaner than ever. Our new cleaning service has made a noticeable difference, and we're pleased with the results.



We continue to work on improving the Lodge's Wi-Fi. Once completed, these upgrades will significantly enhance connectivity and performance throughout the building.

The Board recently completed a full audit of Lodge operations. Overall, we are in strong shape, with only a few recommended areas for improvement.

Our Lodge remains unique within the state. We are open seven days a week, offer food service more frequently than most Lodges, host a wide range of entertainment and special events, and provide exceptional support to our veterans. Your involvement and dedication make these accomplishments possible, and you should be proud of the impact our Lodge has on the community.

Looking ahead, we will continue focusing on infrastructure, safety, and member comfort. Projects such as enhancing our outdoor spaces and repaving and striping the parking lot are already in motion, and we will move forward thoughtfully and responsibly.

Thank you for your continued support as we work to preserve and strengthen Deep Creek Elks Lodge #2763. Together, we ensure it remains a place we can all be proud of.

Fraternally,
Lou Polito
Chairman of the Board of Trustees Deep Creek Elks Lodge #2763

Telling Their Stories

Recently, Barbara Wastart, Lodge communications director, and Ashley Deschamps Gildard, Chaplain, spoke to members of the Sunshine Divas (formerly Deep Creek Divas).

Barbara talked about women in the military, starting with "Two Kettles Together," an Oneida woman who fought, along with her husband Hay Yerry, in the Revolutionary War as allies with the Americans against the British. She was a major badass, riding her horse as they entered into the battlefields two pistols in hands fighting along the way.

Barbara also revealed a bit of information about herself as the first female on the flightline at Tyndall AFB as an aircraft mechanic.

Ashley talked about her 23-year career as a Technical Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, serving as an Emergency Management Specialist, Chemical Warfare instructor, and HazMat responder. She shared experiences from her seven deployments to Qatar, Iraq, Djibouti, and Japan, and reflected on what freedom means to her—how it's protected through service, sacrifice, and the commitment of the men and women who wear the uniform.

Sunshine Divas (formerly Deep Creek Divas) is a small group of ladies who "Wear Purple and Red Hats," (no longer officially Red Hat Society sanctioned). They meet monthly to hear guest speakers and share other activities. Members range anywhere from 50 to 90-plus years young. Each year they support a local charity.



Pictured (upper left) Barbara Wastart, retired Air Force and communications director; (upper right) Ashley Deschamps Gildard, retired Air Force and Lodge chaplain; (lower left), Sunshine Divas members Maxine Kollath, Joyce Rosta, Fran Moll, and Sharon Carraway; (lower right) Barbara, Lori DiMeo, Sunshine Divas and LoE member, and Ashley.

For The Kids

On Tuesday, July 14, Deep Creek Lodge 2763 turned it's Double Trouble game day into a mega day of fundraising for the Harry Anna Umatilla Youth Camp.

In case you don't know, Double Trouble is similar to playing Bingo. Players buy laminated sleeves of six playing cards for \$2 a sleeve and wait, wish, and hope their cards are called.

The winner is the first to cover all six cards. In all, sixteen rounds were played. After the games, members enjoyed pulled pork sandwiches for dinner.

All proceeds for the day went to Umatilla. The day was a huge success. The Lodge raised \$1,441 for the Harry Anna Umatilla Youth Camp.

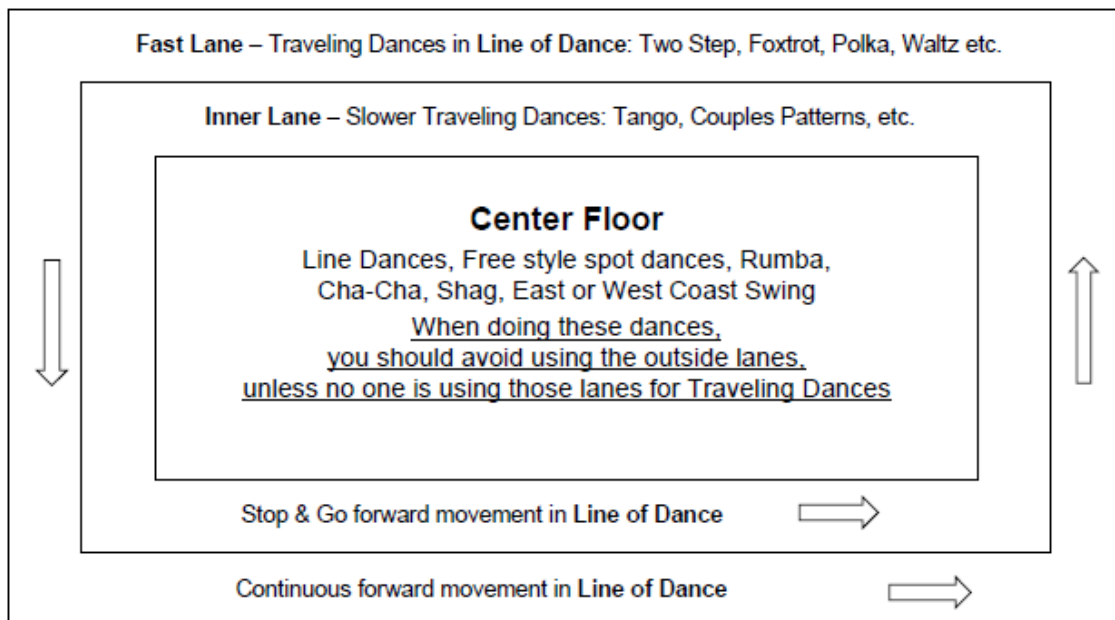


Did You Know?

There are rules to follow when we all spill out onto the dance floor.
Thank you Andrea and Jim Carroll for keeping us in line.

Dance Floor Etiquette

Many dancers and many styles of dance can be accommodated on the floor at the same time.
Let's be courteous, and we'll all have a great time dancing.



Tee-Up For A Worthy Cause



Deep Creek Elks #2763 will host another two-day event next month to support the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

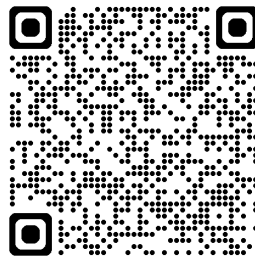
This is the sixth year our Lodge rises to the challenge to support TunnelsToTowers, which was established after 9-1-1 to honor fallen military and firefighter heroes.

Once again, we have planned a four-person golf scramble (men and women) taking place Sept. 12th at the Deep Creek Golf Club. On Sept. 13th, there will be a fundraising event at the Lodge. Details of that will be announced.

To participate in the golf outing, contact Jack Upton at JackUpton33983@gmail.com. You may join a foursome or play with your own group. Players do not have to be Elk members to participate so invite your golfing buddies.

Cost is \$100 per player, which includes a continental breakfast, 18 holes of golf and cart, and lunch after the scramble at the Deep Creek Elks Lodge.

If you are unable to attend and wish to donate please use this [link](#) to make an online donation or scan the QR code below. Your donation will be contributed on behalf of the club.





ELKS LODGE #2763

25TH ANNIVERSARY

HONORING 25 YEARS OF MEMORY,
★ SERVICE, AND SACRIFICE ★



★ GOLF SCRAMBLE ★

SEPTEMBER 12, 2026



DEEP CREEK

1260 SAN CRISTOBAL AVE, PUNTA GORDA, FL 33983

- ★ FOUR PERSON GOLF SCRAMBLE ★
- ★ ENTRIES CLOSE SEPTEMBER 9, 2026 ★
- ★ 7:00 A.M. REGISTRATION BEGINS ★
- ★ 8:00 A.M. SHOTGUN START ★
- ★ MEN'S FLIGHT ★
- ★ CLOSEST TO PIN FRONT & BACK ★
- ★ ENTRÉE FEE: \$400 ★



INCLUDES:

- ★ 1. 18 HOLES OF GOLF & CART
- ★ 2. FREE GIFT BAGS
- ★ 3. BUFFET LUNCH
- ★ 4. PRIZES
- ★ 5. 50/50 RAFFLE

★ FUND RAISER ★

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

DEEP CREEK ELKS #2763

1133 CAPRICORN B/VD
PUNTA GORDA, FL

— DOORS OPEN AT NOON. —

- 1 MEAL (DONATION REQUESTED)
- 2 RAFFLES
- 3 AUCTIONS
- 4 TIP BOARDS
- 5 TAKE 3 MUSIC 2P – 5P
- 6 NFL SUNDAY TICKET CLOSE – ??

OPEN TO ALL SCRAMBLE PARTICIPANTS



SUPPORT OUR HEROES ★ HONOR THEIR SACRIFICE ★ MAKE A DIFFERENCE

★ PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE TUNNEL TO TOWERS FOUNDATION ★

Please Contribute What You Can. Deadline is Tuesday Aug. 10



In Our Future

Our House Committee has a business plan in place and is working toward bringing a weekly Farmers Market to our Lodge.

Preliminary plans are for the Market to open every Sunday morning until noon. There are no farmers markets in close proximity to us so this also will benefit our Deep Creek community.

Right now, we're looking for Sunday volunteers. You don't have to volunteer every Sunday—every other week, once a month or once every other month will be fine. You can help with check-in, work the parking lot, staff the information booth—we'll have plenty for you to do.

This won't work without your help. Reach out to ER Jed Koontz at 217-855-0468 or any other Lodge officer to volunteer.



Have You Created Your State Elks Account?



Sign on [here](#) and keep up with Elks news.
Deep Creek 2763 has a page as well. Check it out.

On our Deep Creek Elks Lodge 2763 page you can find the most recent copy of the Bugle, the menus, our monthly calendar and and out of the ordinary news.

However, there is access to so much more, like all of the Elks programs, a place for someone to say "Hi Bill" (chatting with members from other Lodges), and more.

Every member who is initiated and receives a packet from the Lodge secretary also receives information about the [elks.org](#) website as well as how to access our Lodge website.

Unlock the Benefits of Your Elks Membership Online

Did you know that your Elks membership gives you access to a wealth of information online? By registering on [Elks.org](#), you'll gain access not only to the Grand Lodge member resources, but also to the Deep Creek Elks Lodge #2763 website, where you'll find everything you need to stay connected with your Lodge.

Why Register?

Once you have access to the Deep Creek Elks Lodge #2763 website, you'll be able to conveniently view:

- Current lunch and dinner menus
- The monthly Lodge calendar
- Highlights of special news and events
- The monthly Bugle newsletter

- Upcoming entertainment and special events
- Lodge announcements and important member information
- And much more!

Whether you're planning your next visit to the Lodge or simply want to stay informed, the website is your one-stop source for the latest information.

Who Can Register?

Registration on Elks.org is available to current Elks members in good standing. Your membership will be verified during the registration process before full access to member-only content is granted.

How to Register

Getting started is easy!

1. Visit the Elks.org home page **here**.
2. Click the "Register" link located in the upper right-hand corner of the page.
3. Complete the registration form by providing the following information:

Your Details

- First and last name
- Current or past Elks titles (if applicable)

Account Information

- Your Local Lodge Number
- Your Membership Number

Contact Information

- A valid email address
- Your preferred username
- A password of your choosing

After you submit your registration, your membership status will be verified. Once approved, you'll enjoy full access to member-only sections of Elks.org as well as your Lodge website.

Stay connected, stay informed, and make the most of your
Elks membership by registering today.

We encourage every member of Deep Creek Elks Lodge #2763 to create an online account and take advantage of the valuable resources available through both Elks.org and our Lodge website.

Sunset Cruise

We took the fun outside the Lodge on July 26th and embarked on a Sunset Cruise aboard The Helen M, part of the Kings Fisher Fleet.

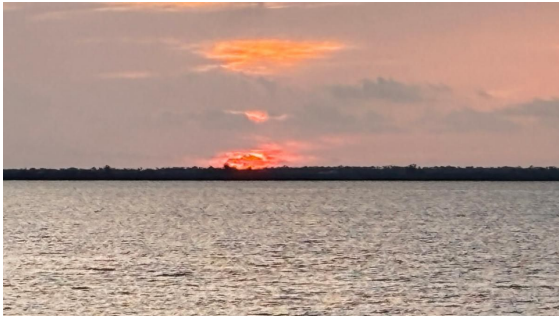
We sang along with the music, enjoyed free-flowing refreshments and sandwiches, and saw dolphins.



The crew of The Helen M
Suzanne, Captain Chris, and Robbie



"Our" crew with the crew
ER Jed Koontz, Communications Director
Barbara Wastart, Captain Chris,



Christmas In July

Christmas came early for members on hand for our Christmas In July party. All proceeds went into our local charities fund.



Santa and his #1 Elf



Santa aka Ken Magill

For more pictures of the fun from both events, look on our Facebook page [HERE](#).

SUMMER HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY 11:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

TUESDAY 11:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY 11:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

THURSDAY 11:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

1ST & 3RD THURSDAY MEETINGS - CLOSE AT 9:00 P.M.

FRIDAY 12:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

SATURDAY 2:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

SUNDAY 12:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.



AUGUST 2026



ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

ENTERTAINMENT
6-9P Fri & Sat
2-5P Sun

LUNCH
Monday - Friday
12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

DINNER
Tuesday, Friday, Saturday
4:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 VP Dinner
2 Bowling 1p	3 SMT\$\$ 2p	4 Double Trouble 1p Karaoke 5:30p	5 Vets Support Grp 11a DAV Cnsltg 11a Cornhole 2p	6 Bargo 2p	7 Bar Game 1p TAT 2	8 Clive Live
9 Bowling 1p Outsiderz	10 SMT\$\$ 2p Line Dance Lesson 4p	11 Double Trouble 1p Bourbon & Wine Tasting 5p	12 Vets Support Grp 11a Cornhole 2p	13 LoE 11a Bargo 2p Orientation 6p	14 Bar Game 1p Holly Rae	15 Pop Rox
16 Bowling 1p	17 SMT\$\$ 2p Trivia 6p	18 Double Trouble 1p Karaoke 5:30p	19 Vets Support Grp 11a Vets Bingo 12p Cornhole 2p	20 Bargo 2p Business Mtg 7p	21 Shagadelic with Simply 60s	22 That Guy
23 Bowling 1p	24 SMT\$\$ 2p Line Dance Lesson 4p	25 Double Trouble 1p Euchre 5:30p	26 Vets Support Grp 11a Cornhole 2p	27 Bargo 2p	28 Bar Game 1p Take 3	29 Hot Rod Hearts
30 Bowling 1p	31 SMT\$\$ 2p Yappy Hour AWL Fundraiser 4p					



Good Friends
GREAT TIMES!

RESERVATIONS PLEASE:
239-413-8244
20 MINUTE TABLE HOLD



FB: Deep Creek Elks Lodge #2763

Calendar subject to change.

Are You Missing All The Fun?

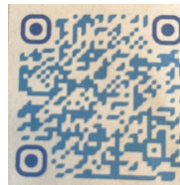
Keep up with what's happening at the Lodge every day and every weekend. Follow our NEW Facebook page.

Search for Deep Creek Elks Lodge #2763
or click [HERE](#) to take you to our page.

Remember to click the FOLLOW button.



Or use this QR code:



Tell Us What You Think

You have thoughts. Ideas. Things you wish took place at the Lodge.

Things you think would be better if...

We want to hear from you. Good or bad, crazy or sane.

We're open to any and all ideas and will consider them all.

Send an email to the board secretary -- secretary.elks2763@gmail.com.

Or you can simply click [here](#) to begin.

Want to remain anonymous? Write it down, slip it to a bartender, or slide it under the office door. We want to hear from you.

Important Contact Information

Reservations ONLY

239-413-8244

Office: Lodge business

941-764-6925

House Committee:

Answering Machine for booking parties and bands

941-249-8067

Bar ONLY

941-764-6825

Check our public Facebook page

(Deep Creek Elks Lodge #2763) for event information.

Deep Creek Elks Lodge 2763 | 1133 Capricorn Blvd. | Punta Gorda, FL 33983 US

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