

Valdosta **Elks** Antlers

Valdosta, Ga - Lodge #728

Telephone: 229-242-3012

2309 US Hwy 84 W
Valdosta, GA 31601

July 2026

Volume 79, Number 4

A Fraternal Organization

elksvaldosta@gmail.com

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays (except in July & August) 7:00 pm

A Message from Exalted Ruler Yvonne Wyche



**Exalted Ruler
Yvonne Wyche**

Hello Fellow Elks,

Wow! June was a great month for Elks in Valdosta! Congratulations to our newest members that were initiated Tuesday, June 30th. We are excited that you have chosen to join our lodge and look forward to growing our lodge together.

June was a very busy month. The month began with our annual Flag Day Ceremony. Thank you to Mike Wyche for planning the ceremony and Mr. Buddy and Gary Bennett for serving as honor guard. Following our Flag Day Ceremony, we held a kitchen party for Sandy Johnson to help replace items destroyed by a home fire. It was a lot of fun.

June also saw a number of our members attend the GEA Annual Meeting in Jekyll Island. Valdosta always impresses with the number of members that attend. If you haven't been to a summer session, I would highly encourage you to in the future.

We also had our annual scholarship dinner for our high school students. This year, we gave out a total of 5 scholarships, our most ever. Two of our students, also won a Legacy Scholarship from Grand Lodge. We are so proud of these young people and I thank everyone that came that night and supported the students.

June also saw our Auxiliary ladies host a fabulous meal for the gentleman of the lodge. Thank you to all the ladies that participated. It was a very special night.

July does offer us a little bit of a slow down. We will only have one meeting this month on July 21st. Our band nights are July 10th and July 24th. July 24th will be our birthday bash and the theme will be Masquerade. July 7th, will be game night.

July is also the month of the Grand Lodge Annual Convention. Mike & I will be attending to represent Valdosta Lodge and are proud to do so. We will be in Chicago from July 3rd-July 9th.

Thank you everyone for all of your hard work. You are the reason we are the best lodge in the state of Georgia!

Respectfully,
Yvonne L. Wyche, ER

July 2026

229-242-3012

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



Cliff Arden,
Secretary

Welcome to the 2nd half of 2026!

I'd like to remind you that we have only one meeting in July and August. The meeting in July will be on the 21st. At that meeting we will have a ballot on the application for initiation of Peggy Stauffer, proposed by Buddy Marinell. We will also ballot on the application for affiliation for John Beaudrie, by transfer demit from Cape Girardeau, Mo. Lodge # 639.

We welcome 6 new members that were initiated Tuesday night, June 30th! A group picture is in this issue of The Antler. Please introduce yourself to them when you see them around the lodge.

As of this writing, we still have 40 members delinquent in their dues. If you are one of them, please get with me and get caught up! The lodge has already paid on your behalf the Grand Lodge Dues for this year, so paying your dues will get that money back to use for one of our charity projects!

I hope you enjoy your summer. Please be safe out there!

Cliff Arden, Secretary

Notice of Election

At the last meeting of the lodge on June 16th, a letter was read on the floor nominating Larry Pope, Past State President, to Honorary Life Membership in our lodge.

Also, a letter was read, and a motion was made to recognize the Honorary Life Membership bestowed to Steve Roberts by his former lodge, El Cajon, Calif. Lodge #1812. Steve and his wife Angelia transferred their membership to our lodge last month and have already become active members.

Pursuit to Grand Lodge Statutes Article III, Section 2, the Exalted Ruler has called for a ballot on these two nominations at the next meeting on July 21, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Wyche
Exalted Ruler

Cliff Arden
Secretary

July 2026

229-242-3012

LODGE OFFICERS 2024-2025

Exalted Ruler.....	Yvonne Wyche
Leading Knight.....	Walt Prettyman
Loyal Knight.....	Mike Wyche
Lecturing Knight...	Gary Bennett
Secretary.....	Cliff Arden, PDDGER
Treasurer.....	B.J. Hall-Stoudt
Chaplin.....	Pauline Player
Esquire.....	Mike Johnson, PER

Inner Guard.....	Sandy Johnson
Tiler.....	Wendell Spells
Trustee: 1 Year.....	Larry Pope, PSP
Trustee: 2 Year.....	Roy Hunnewell, PER
Trustee: 3 Year.....	Katie Altman, PER
Trustee: 4 Year.....	Rex Etheridge



LODGE COMMITTEES

Accident Prevention.....	Buddy Marinell
Activities Committee	Mary Anne Wayne
Americanism.....	Mike Wyche
Auditing/Accounting.....	Ron Wayne
Christmas Basket.....	Rex Etheridge
Decorating Committee.....	BJ Hall-Stoudt & Mary Anne Wayne
Drug Awareness.....	Sandy Johnson
Elks National Foundation...	Mike Johnson, PER
Flag Day.....	Mike Wyche
Food Service/Kitchen.....	Doug Lott
Fraternal Committee.....	Mike Johnson, PER
Grants Coordinator.....	Yvonne Wyche
Government Relations.....	Larry Pope, State President

Gun Raffle.....	Larry Pope, State President
Hoop Shoot Committee.....	Pamela Ross
Lodge Activities.....	Rex Etheridge
Membership.....	Pauline Player
Memorial Day.....	Reatha Pavey
PER Association.....	Larry Pope, State President
Public Relations/Newsletter..	Pauline Player
Reverse Draw Raffle.....	Larry Pope, State President
Ritualistic Committee.....	Rick Corbett, PER
Scholarships.....	Bruce Hayden, PDDGER, PSP
Soccer Shoot Committee.....	Mike Wyche
Standing Relief Comm.....	Chair Officers
State Major Project.....	Mike Johnson, PER
Veterans Services.....	David Owens

July 2026

229-242-3012

VALDOSTA LODGE NO. 728

MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

Membership 04/01/26	313	Average Age.....	67.39
Gains - Initiation	17	No. Life Members.....	25
- Reinstated	0	Honorary Life Members.....	3
- Transferred (In)	3	Delinquent Members.....	40
Total Gains	20	Candidates Awaiting Initiation..	1
Losses - Dropped (Non Payment)	0	Proposed for Membership	5
- Absolute/Transfer Dimit	0		
- Deaths	-4		
Total Losses	-4		
Net Change in Membership.....	16		
Membership as of 07/01/26.....	329		

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



Larry Pope, PDDGER
Current State President

Board Chair

Ana and I want to thank all the support in calls and letters that we received from our Elk Family. It was a difficult time for our family, but my mother lived an exceptionally long and rewarding life. I was so glad to see my fellow Elk brothers who made the 250 mile trip to be with me and Ana, it meant so much to us that words cannot describe.

As we are preparing to host the State Elks quarterly meeting at our Valdosta Lodge, much planning and work remain. Bruce Hayden and I are serving as committee chairmen for this event, and we will be asking for your help to make it a success. I have stated many times that Valdosta is one of the premier lodges in the State of Georgia, so we need to shine. The event dates October 22nd through the 24th.

The Board will meet on July 14th at 6:30pm all board members please plan to attend.

Fraternally
Larry Pope
Board Chair

July 2026

229-242-3012

VALDOSTA LODGE NO. 728



BINGO Schedule

**Bingo Co-Chairs, Alice Sims & Larry Pope
Debbie Barrett, Auxiliary President
with Auxiliary Concessions**



**PLEASE CHECK YOUR TEAM
NEW CALLERS HAVE BEEN ADDED SO TEAM NAMES MAY HAVE CHANGED!**

Date	Caller and Team	Raffle Worker
<u>July</u>		
Monday, 6th	Michael J., Alice S., Greg R., Sherry O.	Bob P.
Monday, 13th	Mike W., Yvonne W., Darrell P., BJ H., Rodger F.	Katie A.
Monday, 20th	Roy H., Bob P., Pat M., Peter T, Doug L., Jeannie S.	Larry P.
Monday, 27th	Larry P., Terri P., Wanda S., Mike J., Wendell S.	Roy H.
Every Thursday	Thursday Team	

Date	Caller and Team	Raffle Worker
<u>August</u>		
Monday, 3rd	Michael J., Alice S., Greg R., Sherry O.	Bob P.
Monday, 10th	Mike W., Yvonne W., Darrell P., BJ H., Rodger F.	Katie A.
Monday, 17th	Roy H., Bob P., Pat M., Peter T, Doug L., Jeannie S.	Larry P.
Monday, 24th	Larry P., Terri P., Wanda S., Mike J., Wendell S.	Roy H.
Monday, 31st	Michael J., Alice S., Greg R., Sherry O.	Bob P.

**Monday and Thursdays at 7:30
Doors open at 6:00 pm and first game begins at 7:30 pm**

SCHEDULES AND SESSIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHECK YOUR EMAIL!

If you are interested in working Bingo, please speak with Alice Sims. If you are interested in helping in the concession stand, please speak with Debbie Barrett.

Thanks, Alice Sims & Larry Pope
Bingo Co-Chairs

Debbie Barrett, Auxiliary President
Concessions Chair

July 2026

229-242-3012

VALDOSTA LODGE NO. 728



JULY BIRTHDAY BASH Friday, July 24th, 2026

Come out and help celebrate the following Lodge and Auxiliary Members birthday's. We will have Birthday Cake and the Birthday Members will receive 1 free drink and have a chance to win \$50.00! (You must be present to win.) Don't forget to RSVP for a wonderful meal! Let's wish all of these members & auxiliary a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 Brandon Fraser	9 Randall McClellan	23 Phil Mika
2 Patrick Folsom	10 Roxanne Brown	23 Duane Roark
3 Jack Priddy	10 Laverne Morgan	25 Pat Bezona
4 Christopher Buescher	11 Rodney Watson	26 John Bauer
4 Edward Musser	11 Mary Ann Wayne	26 Brenda Wetherington
6 Jackie Fender	13 Joy Bassford	27 Gayle Johnson
6 Reatha Pavey	15 Alan Davis	27 Gary Zeigler
6 Donna Reed	15 Mike Johnson	28 Wendell Spells
7 Joseph Kinder	16 Leslie Strickland	29 Ricky Vickers
7 Michael Smith	20 Rose Burnham	31 Jeff Barrett



**Congratulations
to our Birthday
Winner of \$50.00
Jesse
Williams**



July 2026

229-242-3012

VALDOSTA LODGE NO. 728

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S DESK

VALDOSTA LODGE #728 ELKS AIDMORE AUXILIARY



*Debbie Barrett
President*

ELK'S AUXILIARY NEWS

JULY BIRTHDAYS

6 Reatha Pavey
7 Donna Reed
11 Mary Ann Wayne
25 Pat Bezona
27 Gayle Johnson

JULY HOSTESS Sherrie Butler

AUXILIARY OFFICERS 2025-2026

President
Debbie Barrett

Vice-President
Joanne Bennett

Secretary
Pat Bezona

Treasurer
Pat Morgan

Chaplain
Lenora Van Pelt

Parliamentarian
Deborah Johnson

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer! The Elks Auxiliary have been busy working on projects that continue to support our community. Our Valdosta Aidmore foster children school shopping event will be held on Saturday, July 18. We will meet at Walmart on Norman Drive at 10:00 am. We are excited to help these children get ready for a successful school year and appreciate everyone for helping make this possible.

A BIG thank you to everyone who helped make our Men's Night such a great success. I think everyone enjoyed the service of a family style meal. \$345.00 was collected in tips which will go directly toward school supplies. We will also continue to raise funds through 50/50 drawings during our social events to help with this project.

We are also gearing up for our annual Silent Auction on August 8 in conjunction with the Elks Reverse Draw. Donations are currently being collected for themed baskets. A meeting is planned on August 6 at 6:30 to organize and prepare for the auction.

The next General Auxiliary meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21 at 7pm. Our July hostess is Sherrie Butler. I hope to see everyone there!

Debbie Barrett
Auxiliary President

*The June hostess gift was given by
Amber Hunnewell and won by Pat
Morgan.*



July 2026

229-242-3012

VALDOSTA

JULY SCHEDULE OF CLUB EVENTS

Here is what's happening this month. Join us & help to support your Lodge. Bring a friend & introduce them to the Valdosta Elks. Don't forget to sign in all guests!

\$10.00 Cover Charge if not eating on Band Nights.



Friday July 3	Lounge Opens @ 5:30 Dinner @ 7:00	Happy Fourth Pre Party. Menu: Hamburger, Cheeseburger & Hot Dogs, French Fries, Game Night
Tuesday July 7	Lounge Opens @ 5:30 Dinner @ 6:00	Menu: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Sald \$7.00 Game Night
Friday July 10	RSVP Required Lounge Opens @ 5:30 Dinner @ 7:00	Menu: BBQ Chicken, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Corn on the Cob \$15.00 2 River Station on stage
Friday July 17	Lounge Opens @ 5:30 Dinner @ 7:00	Menu: Cubed Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Pole Beans & Salad Karaoke with DJ Buddy \$12.00
Tuesday July 21	MEETING NIGHT Lounge Opens @ 5:30 Dinner @ 6:00	Menu: Chicken Alfredo, Broccoli, Salad \$7.00 Lodge Meeting @ 7:00 Auxiliary Meeting @ 7:00
Friday July 24	Birthday Bash Masquerade RSVP Required Lounge Opens @ 5:30 Dinner @ 7:30	Menu: Ribeye Steaks, Baked Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Creamed Corn, Green Beans, Salad. \$20.00 Hard Times will be on stage.
For our Masquerade Theme, everyone bring your favorite Masquerade masks and wear your brightly colored clothes!		
July 31	Lounge Opens @ 5:30 Dinner @ 7:00	Menu: Chicken fried steak, white gravy, ford hook lima beans, baked squash and zucchini, and salad with roll. \$10.00 Karaoke with DJ Buddy.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING TO COOK OR HELP IN THE KITCHEN, PLEASE SPEAK WITH DOUG LOTT.

*******RESERVATION REQUIRED FOR DINING*******

Email Kristi at kj6133@yahoo.com to RSVP Note: RSVP ONLY to Kristi at the email listed!!!!

Seating is limited to 100 people. Please do not send in reservation requests until it has been posted on Facebook that reservations are open. Anyone wishing to help or cook, please talk to Doug.

See you at the Lodge ! Chef Doug

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2  Bingo 7:30 Thursday Crew	3 Dinner 7:00 Hamburger, Cheeseburg- er, Hot Dogs Game Night	4 Happy 4th of July!! Pool Open Come and Enjoy the Pool!
	5 Bingo 7:30 Team Mike J Raffle: Bob P.	6  Game Night Dinner 6:00 Pizza NO MEETING TONIGHT	8	9  Bingo 7:30 Thursday Crew	10 Dinner 7:00 BBQ Chicken 2 River Station	11 Pool Open Come and Enjoy the Pool!
12	13  Bingo 7:30 Team: Mike W. Raffle: Katie A.	14 Board Meeting 6:30 pm Lounge Closed	15	16  Bingo 7:30 Thursday Crew	17 Dinner 7:00 Cubed Steak Karaoke with DJ Buddy	18 Pool Open Come and Enjoy the Pool!
19	20  Bingo 7:30 Team: Roy H. Raffle: Larry P.	21 LODGE/AUX MEETING Dinner 6:00 Meeting 7:00 Chicken Alfredo	22	23  Bingo 7:30 Thursday Crew	24  Birthday RSVP Masquerade Dinner 7:00 Ribeye Hardtimes	25 Pool Open Come and Enjoy the Pool!
26	27  Bingo 7:30 Team Larry P. Raffle : Roy H.	28 Game Night Dinner 6:00 Doug's Kitchen (Menu TBA)	29	30  Bingo 7:30 Thursday Crew	31 Dinner 7:00 Chicken Fried Steak Karaoke with DJ Buddy	Pool Open Come and Enjoy the Pool!

For more information regarding Bingo times, Lodge activities and meetings, or dinner information, please see the Bingo and Club Event Schedules in the newsletter.

July 2026

229-242-3012

VALDOSTA LODGE NO. 728



**Elks
National
Foundation, Inc.**

Mike Johnson, ENF Chair

Applications for the Most Valuable Student Scholarship Now Open

Senior year of high school brings a wide range of emotions: excitement, relief, sadness, fear. No matter how prepared one may feel for the next stage of life, a strong support system is important to help cope with these feelings.

Support systems can be hard to gain—especially ones that understand the challenges of transitioning to college. With the Most Valuable Student scholarship, students receive more than financial aid; they receive an invitation to join a strong, supportive community: the #ElksFamily.

“It feels like I’m part of a new family, knowing that I have the support system of other people that believe in the same things and want to make an impact,” says Bannon Price, a 2024 Most Valuable Student scholar sponsored by Texarkana, Ark., Lodge No. 399. “It’s just so empowering to have the support from the Elks National Foundation, but also to have this family.”

Ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500 per year, Most Valuable Student scholarships are open to high school seniors that will be pursuing a four-year degree, on a full-time basis, in a United States college or university. 500 of these four-year scholarships will be awarded to the highest-rated applicants in the 2025 competition.

No connection to the Elks is needed to apply, but once someone is an Elks scholar, they are part of the #ElksFamily for life.

“I knew almost nothing about the ENF before receiving this scholarship,” says Caden Lucas, a 2023 Most Valuable Student scholar sponsored by Madisonville, Ky., Lodge No. 738, “but now I realize I have so many new blessings to count thanks to my #ElksFamily!”

As they enter the next stages of their life, the class of 2025 MVS scholars will feel a wide range of emotions; with their new #ElksFamily, they will never feel alone.

Applications for the 2025 Most Valuable Student scholarship opened on August 1st! If you know any high school seniors, encourage them to apply.

For 2024-25, the Elks National Foundation allocated nearly \$2.9 million to fund the Most Valuable Student scholarship program, which includes 500 four-year scholarships ranging from \$4,000 to \$30,000. For more information about the Most Valuable Student scholarship program, including eligibility and deadlines, visit elks.org/scholars.

JOIN THE CLUB!

Start a monthly gift to the Elks National Foundation at enf.elks.org/FC or learn more by scanning the QR code.



July 2026

229-242-3012

VALDOSTA LODGE NO. 728

New Members

Don't forget when you come to the meetings or social nights to put your dollar in the jar and sign the book. No one can sign your name for you. But if you leave before the drawing, we will save the jar earnings for you!

Also, look for the person selling tickets to the Elks drawing on Friday and meeting nights. Tickets are \$2.00 a piece. If your ticket is draw you can pick a number from the board. Money back is a guarantee!

Make plans to attend the birthday bash each month. If your birthday is in the month, you could win \$50.00 and you get one free birthday drink!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

(L-R) Exalted Ruler, Yvonne Wyche, Patrick Folsom, Bill Klauk, Brenda Wetherington, Mark Flak, Margaret NeSmith, Duane Roark, Rick Corbett, PER



BIRTHDAY BASH & MASQUERADE

Join us for our Birthday Bash and Masquerade Theme Night. Break out your masks, feathers and your brightly colored clothes for a fun night with Hard Times on stage!

Elks Care - Elks Share

July 2026

229-242-3012

VALDOSTA LODGE NO. 728

SHOP
BACK TO
SCHOOL!

SUPPLIES SHOPPING EVENT

SATURDAY
JULY 18
10:00 AM

FOR VALDOSTA AIDMORE FOSTER FAMILIES

MEET AT THE Walmart
on NORMAN DRIVE
AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE GARDEN CENTER

Let's Start the School Year **TOGETHER!**

Help Our Kids Succeed!

SPONSORED BY
VALDOSTA Elks
AUXILIARY

Call Debbie Barrett
with any questions, to sign up,
or make a donation. | **229-444-4451**

July 2026

229-242-3012

VALDOSTA LODGE NO. 728

SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT



GEA ANNUAL MEETING AT JEKYLL ISLAND



SOCIAL NIGHTS



July 2026

229-242-3012

VALDOSTA LODGE NO. 728

