



The Wapiti Newsletter

March 2021



Auburn-Opelika Elks Lodge #1834, PO Box 864, Auburn, AL 36830
auburnelks1834@gmail.com
334-821-2391

Exalted Ruler's Message

Gee, what a short month... But we seemed to pack a lot of things in.

The HVAC project has completed with the replacement of five of our units.

We remembered our past and saluted our future... and recognized our current members on February 13th, during our annual Anniversary Ball. Check out the separate article in this month's Wapiti for the details. Congratulations to:

Volunteer of the Year - **Virginia Findley**

Elk of the Year - **Tim Barber**

Officer of the Year - **Hal Bufford**

Grand Exalted Ruler's Outstanding Service Commendation - **Eddie Ward**

Nominations and elections were held during the month. Thank you to all who agreed to serve the Lodge for the coming year. Everyone else be looking for committee assignments. A list of officers and their contact information is included in this Wapiti.

Lastly, Friday night the 26th, **Rose Bufford, our newest member**, put together a team of 12 Elks to put on a Karaoke contest. With over 110 persons in attendance, they raised over \$400.00 for Elks Charities, gave out six membership applications, and the Club grossed over \$1,300.00.

They announced three winners of the contest:

Snagging the First prize of \$100.00 was, **Cambrie Rodriguez**

Placing second for \$75.00 was **Amanda Preston**, and

Taking home \$25.00 for third place was **Leslie Pope**

All had a good time!

We are looking forward to next month.

- **KOB (Adopt-a-Mile) Cleanup** is **Mar 6th** at 10:00 AM at Veteran's Pkwy and Oakbowery Rd.
- Plans are in the works to try something different for St. Patty's Day. Since the 17th fell during the week, we would like to celebrate in the Club, **Friday night the 19th with a Club dinner special** of Shepherd's Pie (\$7.95) - while it lasts. We will serve at 5:30 PM (No take-outs, please). If this goes well, we will try a Club special in April (a Shrimp Basket) and another celebrating Cinco de Mayo on May 7th (Loaded Nachos...).
- **Hal & Rose** will be in the Club on the 2nd and 4th Fridays (**the 12th and 26th respectively**).
- **But also, on the 26th, the World Famous 1834 Cooking Team** will be serving **Catfish Plates** with all the trimmings. Grab a sheet of tickets (keep two and sell the other six) and come enjoy dinner in the restaurant and stay for karaoke that evening! See the ad in this issue of the Wapiti.

It is heartening to see the number of COVID cases begin to drop. I hope each of you has thus far weathered the pandemic and maybe we are on the road to normalcy.

John Findley, Exalted Ruler

FAX: (773) 755-4905

PHONE: (773) 755-4904

Email: RickG@elks.org



MEMBERSHIP/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Rick Gathen
Manager

A Fraternal Organization

2750 N. Lakeview Avenue
Chicago, IL 60614-1889

MEDIA ALERT – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

153rd Anniversary of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

ELKS WERE FOUNDED ON FEBRUARY 16, 1868

Chicago, IL – Local Elks Lodges throughout the United States and in Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Panama Canal will be celebrating 153 years of community service on February 16, 2021.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has made more than 12 Billion in donations since we first started 153 years ago. Last year alone, the Elks donated approximately \$350 million in cash, gifts and time to make our communities better places to live. The Elks are one of the premier patriotic and charitable organizations in the United States of America.

Elk volunteers will visit thousands of hospitalized Veterans that have protected our freedoms. The Elks vow “So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.” The Elks support both active military forces and retired veterans. Elks furnish food, comfort care items, therapeutic items, and gifts, host holiday celebrations, and recreational activities at bases and hospitals and stand ready to fulfill any need when called upon. Last year alone, the value of Elks’ contributions to the nation’s heroes provided more than \$50 million to more than 300 Veterans Administration Medical Centers, clinics, and state care facilities.

Annually, the Elks award college scholarships across the nation totaling more than \$4.5 million.

The Elks Community Investment Program will award nearly \$47 million towards enriching our communities.

There are more than 1,900 Elks Lodges across the country with a total membership nearing 800,000. Elks’ members must be American citizens who are at least 21 years of age and must believe in God.

To learn more visit **www.elks.org**

Secretary's Message

From the desk of the Secretary:

Almost time for your annual dues. We have a billing system that has had problems getting started. Hopefully, now all areas have been solved. Your billing statement should be arriving soon via mail.

As of this date, we have 23 members that will be dropped on March 31, 2021, for unpaid dues. Some of these Brothers and Sisters have been members for many years. If you are one of them and have a hardship, please get in touch with me at 334-301-1330. We may be able to help. We do not want to lose you.

Our Annual Convention will be in June and when I receive details, I will pass them on. At that time, your Camp Ascca drawing will take place. I have all ticket stubs that have been sold. Also, I have a few more if you want more chances in winning the \$10,000.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Carolyn Coburn, Lodge Secretary

2021 LODGE OFFICERS

2020-21 #1834 Lodge Officers:

John Findley (Virginia)
Exalted Ruler
jwfindley7944@gmail.com
(334) 744-9144 (Cell)

Terry Harper (Tammie)
Leading Knight
harpetw@auburn.edu
(334) 703-7577 (Cell)

Bobby Kilgore
Loyal Knight
bobbykilgore333@gmail.com
(334) 787-2344 (Cell)

Joe Higgins
Lecturing Knight
j.higginshs1958@gmail.com
(334) 704-3593 (Cell)

Carolyn Coburn (Bob)
Secretary
auburnelks1834@gmail.com
(334) 301-1330 (Cell)

Jerry Spivey (Pat)
Treasurer
jerryr42@charter.net
(334) 707-7844 (Cell)

Hal Bufford (Rose)
Esquire
buffomh@auburn.edu
(334) 703-3500 (Cell)

Eddie Ward (Donna)
Inner Guard
eddie.f.ward1953@gmail.com
(334) 559-0372 (Cell)

Clarence Cook
Tiler
ccook4242@gmail.com
(334) 444-4702 (Cell)

Julie Stanley
Chaplain
scoutingisforall@yahoo.com
(334) 524-0574 (Cell)

2020-21 # Board of Trustees:

Howard Harmon (Lisa)
5 Year Trustee
howard.harmon@southerncontrols.com
(334) 750-7200 (Cell)

Andy Daugherty (Kathy)
4 Year Trustee
andyd211@gmail.com
(334) 707-1447 (Cell)

Bennett Jones, PER (Jerry)
3 Year Trustee
bntjones@charter.net
(334) 750-0313 (Cell)

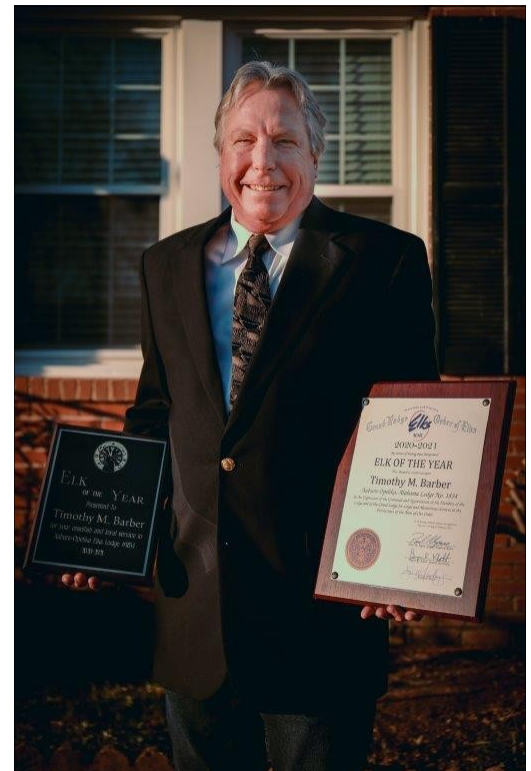
Blake Epperson, PER (Libby)
(Chairman) 2 Year Trustee
bbep79@aol.com
(334) 750-3121 (Cell)

Wayne Reuter, PER (Annette)
1 Year Trustee
oldgutterman@gmail.com
(334) 524-5560 (Cell)

March Birthdays

01	Franklin	Childers	57
01	Robert (Rob)	Sullivan Jr	22
03	John	Dudley Jr	36
05	Thomas	Casson	23
09	William	Harmon	1
12	Paul	Hughes	40
13	Richard	Brewer	35
13	William	Randolph	15
13	Harold	Washington Jr	33
15	Ronald	Myers	53
16	Stephen	Penland	44
17	Rebecca	Smith	5
18	Chris	Chaffin	23
20	Fred	Cotney	40
23	Mark	Jones	20
26	David	Hall	53
27	James 'Bubba'	Thrash	15
29	Christopher	Valdez	1
31	Tommy	Braswell	27

Elk of the Year



TIM BARBER

Anniversary Ball 2020-21

Auburn-Opelika Lodge remembered our past and saluted our future... and recognized our current members on February 13th, during our annual Anniversary Ball.

Exalted Ruler Findley presented a new plaque authorized by the Board of Directors to recognize **Life Members**. Those who have qualified and been balloted by the Lodge as Life Members are listed thereon. This plaque will hang in the Lobby of the Lodge.

In addition, he presented Certificates of Appreciation to the original members of the **World Famous #1834 Cooking Team** (*Bufford, Harmon, and Ward*) with his thanks for a job well done.

Sister Carolyn Coburn was recognized for her work as Secretary for the Lodge during the past year. **Brother Jerry Spivey** was also recognized for his efforts of moving the Lodge forward with the FRS (Financial Reporting System), a major undertaking completed during the past year.

Virginia Findley was awarded the "**Volunteer of the Year**" for her many hours of work in trying to keep the ER in line and for the many hours she spent decorating, beer-tending, cooking, and cleaning (I know, I get carried away...). It would not have happened except for her support.

Brother Tim Barber was recognized as our **2020-2021 Elk of the Year!**

Brother Eddie Ward was presented the **Grand Exalted Ruler's Outstanding Service Commendation** for his Outstanding Service to Lodge #1834 throughout the years.

Brother Hal Bufford was recognized by the Officers of the Lodge as the **2020-21 Officer of the Year**.

To conclude the evening, **Garrett Miles**, country music star, wowed the crowd with a selection of his classic country vocals.

All in attendance, I believe, had a very special evening.



Catfish and Karaoke !

*Come join us for a Catfish dinner
and stay for*



Karaoke in the Club!

Plates are \$15.00



Friday, Mar 26th, 2021

5:30 to 7:30 PM

The Restaurant will be open

Eat in or Carry Out!



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3rd

2:00 PM in front of Scout Hut

Bring your Baskets

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 4:00 Club open 6:00 Board Mtg 7:00 Lodge Mtg	2 <i>Lodge Closed</i>	3 <i>Lodge Closed</i>	4 <i>Lodge Closed</i>	5 4:00 Club open	6 <i>Lodge Closed</i> 10:00 AM KOB Clean-up Veteran's Pkw
7 <i>Lodge Closed</i>	8 4:00 Club open 6:00 House Commit 7:00 Lodge	9 <i>Lodge Closed</i>	10 <i>Lodge Closed</i>	11 <i>Lodge Closed</i>	12 4:00 Club open 7:00 Karaoke Hal and Rose! 	13 <i>Lodge Closed</i>
14 <i>Lodge Closed</i> Daylight Savings Time Begins	15 4:00 Club open 7:00 Lodge Mtg <i>Ides of March</i> 	16 <i>Lodge Closed</i>	17 <i>Lodge Closed</i>  St. Patrick's	18 <i>Lodge Closed</i>	19 4:00 Club open  Shepherd's Pie... \$7.95 5:30 in Club	20 <i>Lodge Closed</i>  Spring Begins
21 <i>Lodge Closed</i>	22 4:00 Club open 7:00 Lodge Mtg	23 <i>Lodge Closed</i>	24 <i>Lodge Closed</i>	25 <i>Lodge Closed</i>	26 4:00 Club open 5:30-7:30 Fish Fry 7:00 Karaoke Hal and Rose! 	27 <i>Lodge Closed</i>
28 <i>Lodge Closed</i> <i>Palm Sunday</i>  16	29 4:00 Club open 7:00 Lodge Mtg Sweet 16 	30 <i>Lodge Closed</i>  Eight	31 <i>Lodge Closed</i>  Eight			

Keep Opelika Beautiful Cleanup



Join us on March 6th at 10:00 AM at the intersection of Oakbowery Road and Veteran's Parkway for our annual cleanup in conjunction with the citywide Keep Opelika Beautiful campaign. Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 218 and Girl Scout Troop 7372 will be helping our Elks to clean-up the Elk's Adopt-a-Mile section.

Kal and Rose Karaoke

In the club for your enjoyment...

March 12th and 19th, 2021

Club opens at 4:00 PM

Karaoke at 7:00 PM



See you at the Club!