



December 2021

"Wapiti"
Newsletter



American



December 2021

The Station of the Exalted Ruler

Greetings!

Hope each of you enjoyed extending your belt another notch at Thanksgiving! And looking forward to Christmas Cheer!!

Thank you to **Mike Rivers** and all who helped prepare the gift bags and meal for our Veterans at the VA Medical Center at Tuskegee. The project was a resounding success! Feeding over 115 Veterans and hospital staff!

Also in November, we received a sales contract for the Lodge property which was voted on and accepted by the Board and Lodge and has been returned to the Purchaser's agent. The contract calls for the Purchaser to have a 90-day due diligence period and once satisfied, the Lodge will have 90 days to vacate the property. The sales price was \$1,950,000.00.

For December:

Elks Memorial Service will be Sunday December 5th at 2:00 PM in the Lodge Room. Please come and help us remember our absent members.

Hal and Rose will be in the Club on Friday, December 10th at 7:00 PM for Karaoke. Come out and join them! We are letting them off for the holidays and they won't return for Karaoke until after the first of the year.

The Lodge is planning a Christmas Party in the Club on December 17th at 7:00 PM. Each person is requested to **bring a gift for a Boy or a Girl to swap** during a gift exchange... **Spoiler alert:** the rules of the exchange include: if you open a gift that the next person or persons would like to have... you have to part with your gift and select another... I didn't make this up... that pesky Santa Claus who is holding the bash is responsible... Bring your significant other and a dish to share (finger foods) and join us on the 17th ...

Our last meeting of the year will be on December 20th. Afterwards, the Club and Lodge will be closed for the holidays until New Year's Eve.

We will host a **New Year's Eve Cocktail party with heavy hors d'oeuvres, from 6:00 – 9:00 PM on the 31st.** We are requesting **advance ticket sales** to determine how many would like to participate (i.e., so we know how much food to prepare). The cost of the evening will be **\$10.00 per person with entrance by ticket only.** There will be an open bar with your favorite libation. After 9:00 PM you may proceed to your favorite watering hole, etc. to ring in the New Year appropriately.

The Cocktail Party will finish up our 2021 activities. **Our next Lodge meeting will be January 3rd, 2022!**

I hope that each of you has weathered 2021 well with the pandemic and the supply chain issues, etc... and that **2022 will be happy and prosperous for all!**

Happy New Year!

John Findley, Exalted Ruler

A man walks down the street of his hometown and sees the old Elks Lodge closed and falling apart. He had left for the Service and said when he returned home, he wanted to join the Lodge because as a child he was so impressed by the quality of the men he met there. He recalled the fish fry's and barbecues he had attended there, the Christmas parties, and the other events.

He saw an old lady walking past and asked if she knew what had happened to the Elks Lodge? He recalled how he would see the members gather for meetings, holding events for the community and marching in the parade. Such great men, beacons of the town, men of influence, but more importantly, great men.

The old woman stated, "My husband used to attend Lodge there. For decades he would spend countless hours working to prepare for events and meetings. Oh, how he loved being around his Brothers! He loved being an Elk and so looked forward to the fellowship. He loved being surrounded by good men, like minded men who knew there was something bigger than themselves."

"But what happened?", asked the man, "Where'd they all go?"

"Well son," said the old lady, "They died or moved away but it started down this path long before that. The Brothers stopped attending, the events stopped, the people stopped coming, and the fundraisers stopped. When the fundraisers stopped, the Brothers were asked to pitch in to keep their Lodge alive. Unfortunately, the Brothers had more important things to do. They would have all kinds of reasons why they couldn't come and give a few hours of their time.

There used to be dozens but eventually there were just a few, my husband called them the "faithful few." Sometimes they barely had enough to hold meetings, they couldn't do charitable work because they didn't have enough members, they couldn't grow because they didn't bring in new members. Sadly, as those "faithful few" aged, they couldn't do it all anymore. They tried but after the events stopped, so did their relations with the town folk. The people who had enjoyed the events over the years lost interest in helping out. They drained what little money they had left to try to keep it open, but it all dried up. After they closed my husband was miserable, it was the one thing he had to look forward to each week and now it was gone."

The man looked on with tears in his eyes, such a great institution that did so much for its community was GONE! (Think about that...)

Our Lodges are not just buildings of brick and mortar, they're buildings of Brotherly Love. Love held between Brothers of the Order and shown to our communities, but they can't survive on love alone. Like any great organization, it is the members who keep it going. Much like the crops of the field die off without the rains, our Lodges will die off without its members and their support. We all have other things going on in life, that is the way of life... but we must make every effort to set aside the time, as little as three hours a week, to attend meetings, and do the work to maintain our lodge.



05	Aris	Murphy	56
06	Joel	Gregg	6
08	Jackie	Thomaston	26
09	James	Buford	33
14	Peter	Byrd	2
15	Allan	Garner	29
17	Keith	Stanfield	15
18	Roger	Royal	22
20	Dan	Hart	44
21	Ann	Breedlove	2
21	James	Smith	45
24	Lance	Farrar	1
25	Russell	Cash	17
27	Wes	Long	6
28	Wayne	McCormick	15





December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 4:00 Club Open	4
5  Memorial Service 2:00 PM	6 4:00 Club Open 6:00 Board Mtg 7:00 Lodge Mtg	7 	8	9	10 4:00 Club Open 7:00 Karaoke Hal and  Rose!	11
12	13 4:00 Club Open 6:00 House Committee 7:00 Lodge Mtg	14	15	16 6:00 SCV	17 4:00 Club Open 7:00 Santa Party 	18
19	20 4:00 Club Open 7:00 Lodge Mtg	21 	22	23	24  Club Closed	25 
26 	27 Lodge and Club Closed	28  Pledge of Allegiance Day	29	30	31 Club opens late 6:00 New Year's Eve Cocktail Party	



Lodge Cutthroat Christmas Party!

December 17th – 7:00 PM

Bring a Wrapped Gift to exchange!

Spend no more than \$10.00 - \$15.00...

Be sure to identify if the gift is for a girl or boy...

Finger Foods! Karaoke with Hal and Rose!



The Club will host

A Cocktail Party in the club...

December 31st from 6-9PM

\$10.00 per person

Open Bar & heavy hors d'ouerves

**MEMORIAL
SERVICE**
**DECEMBER 5TH,
2021**
2:00 PM
**TO OUR ABSENT
MEMBERS**

Hal and Rose Karaoke

In the club for your enjoyment...

November 12th, 2021

Club opens at 4:00 PM

Karaoke at 7:00 PM



See you at the Club!