



Elkhorn

Exalted Ruler Message

2023 – 2024 Lodge Officers

PEGGY MURPHY

Exalted Ruler

JILLHOCKEMA

Leading Knight

BECKY MIZEL

Loyal Knight

HEATH SMITH

Lecturing Knight

JAN JONKER, PSP

Secretary

JACK ALEXANDER, PSP

Treasurer

VACANT

Chaplain

ROBERT EUBANKS

Esquire

DAN ESTES

Inner Guard

STEVE MEULLER, PER

Tiler

TRUSTEES

Tom Stroozas, PER

Bob Kawa

John 'Bumper' Chapple
III

Thomas Gregoire, PER

B. David Spell, PER



I AM Happy to report your ELKDOM core of officers and volunteers have hit the floor running.

Jill Hockema, our Esteemed Leading Knight, has been working Hard going for the "gold" aka a \$3000.00 Elks National Foundation Freedom Grant for our local Veterans. "Jilly Beans" has been working on donations of Taxi Cab Vouchers to take our local Veterans to their much needed Doctor and Medical Appointments. Many find these appointments challenging to get to, due to transportation issues. We are also hoping to have backpacks loaded with much needed toiletries etc to hand out as well.

In these backpacks we will include One Meal voucher for a Friday Night Dinner right here at our Very own Homer Elks Lodge 2127. Our House Committee Chair and a man of many titles Mike Parrish heart fully spoke; "I will never turn down a veteran in need of a meal!"

Great Job Jill ! I know you put your ALL into this!

Thank You Tom Stroozas for putting your best foot forward with your awesome expertise in Grant writing with assisting Jill. Now, let's all throw up a few prayers to the "Grant Gods" that we are The Lodge chosen to receive this grant!

Speaking of Grants, Becky Mizel, our Loyal Knight, had monies left over from the Youth at Risk Spring Fling which have now been donated to the Homer Food Pantry. Great way to put the finishing touches on that Beacon Grant Becky!

Moving on to our Trustees, David Spell our articulate loquaciously fluent laureate installed a micro phone system for use at our largely attended lodge meetings. This is to replace the customary practice of the 'yelling it until they get it' system which has grown archaic to impart with impartiality .

John "Bumper" Chapple III graciously offered to bust open his piggy bank to pay for the cost of this pulpitarian system. Thank you Bumper! You are the BEST!

A BIG SHOUT out goes to Trustee Chairman Bob Kawa and Trustee Tom Gregoire on breaking down and taking apart many of the Lodge Barstools that are now going out to

receive a much needed facelift .

Not to worry our membership, there still will be stools to belly up to the bar! These bar stools are being recovered in small groups until ALL the stools are recovered! Matt Hockema jumped up and volunteered to gather these stools up and drop them off in Kenai! You have our gratitude on that one Matt ! That is a bit of a drive!!!!

While on the subject of stools, if you have not noticed there are 4 new "Thrones" installed in both the men and ladies rooms. If you find yourselves sitting "taller," you are! Only the best for our membership!!!! Thank you to

Conrad Chandler, Mike Parrish, and Matt Hockema for the pick up and installation of these porcelain chamber pots! You guys are THE KING OF THRONES!

Fast came the end of April with the ASEA State Convention hosted by our ASEA State President Jimmy Swearingin in his Hometown Kodiak Elks Lodge #1772.

This convention was really quite the experience! Those that were voted on to attend really expressed they learned a lot of information and guidance's. The information we learned will help us in extending help within our local communities through various grants. These Grants also help us a lodge to thrive and much more!

ASEA Swearingin has completed his year as our State President and has passed the baton to Anchorage Elks Lodge PER, Todd Schlegel, who is now ASEA Sate President. Congratulations to President Schlegel!

And thank You PSP Swearingin for your hard work putting on this convention .

I would like to congratulate two of our own lodge and states officers, PER ,Lodge Secretary Jan Jonker has been reappointed to serve as ASEA Charitable Fund Trustee for another 5 years and Lodge BOD Chair and Trustee Tom Stroozas is now Vice President and in charge of the ASEA HELP grants which this year is \$8000 per Alaska Lodge.

May1st-May7th is Elks National Youth week .

Accordingly, Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy has made a formal Proclamation declaring This First week of May 'Elks National Youth Week'.

Demonstrating that **ELKS CARE-ELKS SHARE**, Your Homer Elks Lodge #2127 will donate \$500.00 to the West Hill Elementary School towards their four graders trip across to Pedersen Bay to further themselves in learning and participating in environmental and wildlife studies.

Also hosting HOOP SHOOT contests later this year are among some of the youth activities and programs that Our Elks Lodge participates in encouraging our

local youth with quality programs are just a few listed here.

PDDGER Mike Riley has agreed to continue as the "Chair" with "Most Valuable Student" Scholarship Program! Rumor has it Mike Riley is the perfect guy for this position. Thank you so much Mike for your continued Benevolence!

PER Steve Mueller has agreed to continue as The "Chair" for The Drug Awareness program!!!! Having a well seasoned pharmacist in our membership is a very valuable asset to head up this program. Thank You so very much Steve!!!!!!

I would like to introduce Derek Mezackheadrick; he is our Chaplain and one heck of a great guy! Derek has volunteered numerous times. Most recently as our popular pull-tab salesman at the recent Emblem Convention!

When Paul Parsons isn't busy burning steaks for steak nights, he is busy in his shop making trim to finish off various areas of the outside siding. We are glad you're back!

As we roll into the month of May, lets us not forget Mother's Day.

"Gods most precious work of art is the warmth and love of a Mother's heart." Happy Mother's Day to All.

I hope you all enjoy the warmth and rapid sunshine of this season .Come out and enjoy a beverage from our balcony! It offers the BEST view here in Homer!

In closing, Memorial Day is a time we pay homage to the Gallant men and women whose selflessness to protect our Freedoms paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Remembering is a way to hold them all close within ones heart. Joseph Campbell a professor of literature said it best;

"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

Faternally & Love
Peggy Murphy
Exalted Ruler



From the Secretary's Desk – May 2023

Jan Jonker, PSP, Lodge Secretary



Lots of GOOD STUFF in this newsletter edition so am not going to bore you with a

lot of membership stats other than to thank our 198 members whom have paid their 2023-24 dues and have recognized the importance of being a current ELK and the good works that we have provided to our area communities for all these many years.

Sadly, that leaves 67 members on our delinquent list. If you cannot locate your dues statement you can use the payment coupon in this newsletter, stop by during the week and pay at the bar or give us a call. If you need a new statement let us know. Send us an email at homerelek@gci.net and one will be emailed to you. Couldn't be simpler.

New Membership Applications 'off to a Good Start'

Currently we have 27 applications for New Membership and Reinstatements in the works. THAT'S A BUNCH. Exalted Ruler, Peggy, has set **Friday, May 19th @ 6:00 pm** for our next initiation. **Looks like we could have a large group.**



Applicants located at the right are in various stages of the process that includes, submitting the application, application is proposed on the floor at the next lodge meeting, and then application goes to the investigating Committee. Investigating committee reports at the next lodge meeting and the candidate is voted upon. If voted upon favorably the candidate is informed by letter of his/her favorable election to membership and of their initiation date.

We must all help by sponsoring new and interested members into our lodge. Family, friends, neighbors, co-workers; They ARE out there and we MUST all bring them into the fold of the B.P.O.E. (Best People of Earth).

Membership is the lifeblood of any organization and the Elks there no exception.

No Members – No Elks.

IT ALL STARTS WITH THE APPLICATION.

#	Name	Record Type
	Bell, Stephen	Candidate for Membership Elected; awaiting orientation
	Berg, Emily E	Candidate for Membership Investigated; awaiting election
	Braund, Susan Swanson	Candidate for Membership Elected; awaiting orientation
	Brooks, Joleen	Candidate for Membership Investigated; awaiting election
	Buenting, Andrew	Candidate for Membership Applied; awaiting proposal
	Calderon, Crystal	Candidate for Membership Investigated; awaiting election
	Comigore, Faye	Candidate for Membership Elected; awaiting orientation
	Cuervo, Alex	Candidate for Membership Elected; awaiting orientation
	Domont-Bell, Charlotte	Candidate for Membership Elected; awaiting orientation
001792	Evarts, Connie J	Candidate for Membership Applied; awaiting proposal, has MB#
	Haeckel, Melissa	Candidate for Membership Investigated; awaiting election
	Inglis, Eric	Candidate for Membership Elected; awaiting orientation
	Kane, William D	Candidate for Membership Applied; awaiting proposal
	Lafleur, Duane	Candidate for Membership Proposed; awaiting investigation
	Lambert, Garret	Candidate for Membership Elected; awaiting orientation
	Matthews, Chad	Candidate for Membership Elected; awaiting orientation
	Matthews, Crisi	Candidate for Membership Elected; awaiting orientation
	Peltola, Danielle	Candidate for Membership Applied; awaiting proposal
	Perkins, Dee	Candidate for Membership Elected; awaiting orientation
	Petkash, Dale J	Candidate for Membership Elected; awaiting orientation
	Rodriguez, Dori M	Candidate for Membership Elected; awaiting orientation
	Schmidt, Deb	Candidate for Membership Investigated; awaiting election
	Smith, Christopher	Candidate for Membership Elected; awaiting orientation
	Smude, Adam	Candidate for Membership Investigated; awaiting election
	Turner, Heather	Candidate for Membership Elected; awaiting orientation
	Wasser, Robert E	Candidate for Membership Elected; awaiting orientation
	Youngblood, Tary	Candidate for Membership Applied; awaiting proposal



To Our May Members

03 Nothem, Robert A
05 Hockema, Matthew G
07 Martin, Greg
10 Leath, Richard
12 Machuzak, Michael
12 Rudolph, Chase A
13 Gell, Richard F

14 Zak, Bryan
15 Riley, Michael W
16 Harris, Bruce
18 Hall, George
18 Matthews, Charles E
19 Crauthers, Amos L
21 McDonald, Jen
22 Owens, Joe
25 Gerrettie, Diane

26 Arnold, Justin
28 Mink, Johnathan
28 Wilmer, Molly
30 Eckert, Jacob
31 Fell, Michael W
31 Trimble, Emmitt

And Now the Good/Fun Stuff



VA CLINIC GETS NEW FLAGS

Recently it was brought to our attention that the New VA Clinic did not have any flags flying at the facility. The property owner did not want a flag pole installed on the property so the lodge voted to spend some funds to purchase and install these flags on the building/railing.

Many thanks to Jill & Matt Hockema for bringing this to our attention and making sure that the VA Clinic can proudly fly our flags. GREAT JOB!

ALASKA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION (ASEA) STATE CONVENTION

The last weekend of April a large contingent of Homer Elks descended upon Kodiak where the Kodiak Elks Lodge hosted the **75th Annual Alaska State Elks Association Convention**. The delegation included; Exalted Ruler Peggy Murphy, Leading Knight Jill Hockema & Matt, Lodge Esquire Lenny Eubanks & Heather, Lodge Trustee John 'Bumper' Chapple III & Peggy, Lodge Secretary & Past State President Jan Jonker & Joanie, GL District Deputy Mike Parish & Sherry, Past State President Rick Eckert and Lodge Trustee & ASEA Trustee Tom Stroozas. JR PER Mahealani Coila was also in attendance helping the Kodiak Lodge host the convention. Quite a Group indeed.



A portion of the Homer contingent

The convention included three days of business sessions and several seminars/training for all in attendance that included representatives from all of our 15 Alaska Elks Lodges. Some items of note from the convention are;

- Membership gain of 16 statewide. The first such gain in 25+ years. **GREAT JOB ALASKA.**
- Nationwide there was a membership gain of 105,000 +. The first such gain in many years.
- **Homer Lodge received several recognitions and awards.**
 - Membership net gain of 29 and placed 3rd in the state.
 - \$1000 for placing 1st in our district in the PGER Roger True Lodge of Excellence Award.
 - \$400 for placing 1st in our District in the All American Lodge Contest
 - JR PER Mahealani placed in the top five in the state for membership recruitment and the ASEA reimbursed her for her 2023-24 dues.
 - Additionally, Jan Jonker received \$1000 for selling the winning \$10K raffle ticket and has donated this to our lodge to help with the costs of recovering our bar stools.
- ASEA Budgets
 - In new business the delegation passed our General Fund, Major Project & Charitable Projects Budgets.
 - The Charitable Projects is funded by our ASEA Charitable Trust and funds received from the Elks National Foundation.
 - This year the ASEA Charitable Trust provided \$222,345 to fund our statewide Charitable Projects. **That's \$6.00 for every \$1.00 donated to the Trust last year.**
 - The Elks National Foundation provided \$105,000 to fund our statewide Charitable Projects. **That's \$2.00 for every \$1.00 donated to ENF last year.**
 - **That's a GREAT return on our donations.** So if you are asked to donate to either the ASEA Charitable Trust or the Elks National Foundation please, be generous and assured that your donation is being put to good use.

But All Was Not Business

Journey of the BIRDS, by the Hockemas

The Alaska State Elks Lodge Convention was held in Kodiak, Alaska from April 27 – 29, 2023. As every year at the end of convention, Lodge birds (AKA Exhausted Roosters) are returned to each Lodge to roost once again.

Kodiak Lodge #1772's bird couldn't have been roosting more than an hour in their Lodge when Esteemed Leading Knight, Jill Hockema and her spouse, Matthew, arrived at the Lodge and immediately spotted Kodiak's bird roosting above the cooler. We listened to Kodiak's Exalted Ruler explaining to his bartender how she had to protect the bird and not allow anyone to get behind the bar. We plotted for about 10 minutes on how we could steal their bird. Jill was too short, but Matt was tall enough he could reach it. Now to wait for the opportunity. Within five minutes, the bartender disappeared into the kitchen and Matt made his move with encouraging shouts from his wife to "GO, GO, GO", and with success he stole Kodiak's bird! And yes, the bell was rung!

The journey of the Exhausted Rooster was documented leaving Kodiak on the jet, and we may have heard it crying and saying goodbye to Kodiak, while pleading with PER, PSP, Jimmy (Swearingen) to rescue it.



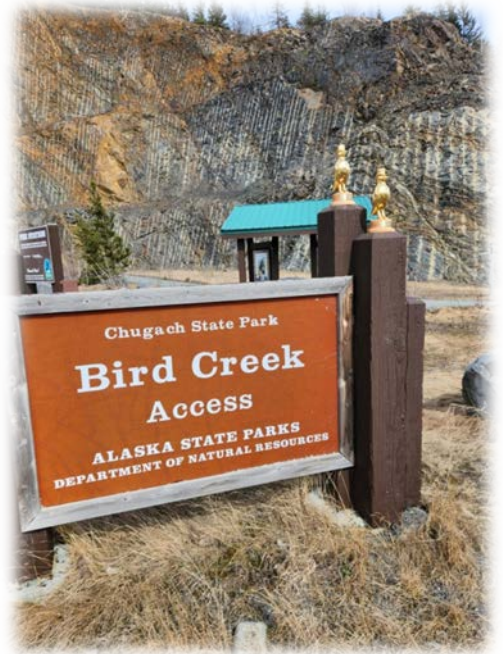
And so it begins. Matt – the bird thief



The journey begins. Who's afraid of flying? Goodbye Kodiak



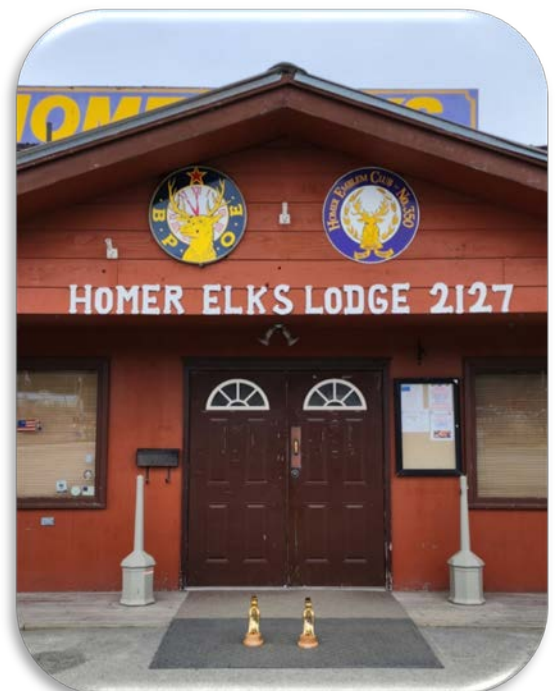
Birds of a feather. Homer & Kodiak birds head to Homer.



Even us birds need a rest stop



Hurray....Just in time for the Festival



Home at Last. Home at Last..... Let's hang here for a while.

And some others.....



Bumper & Joanie cuttin the rug



Hey Mike - ain't getting older a B



Jan talks importance of the ASEA Charitable Trust



Rick addresses the delegation



Tom presents the Governor's Elks Youth Week Proclamation to ASEA President Jimmy



Sunday, May 14th

Past Exalted Ruler's Annual
Mother's Day Breakfast

Serving 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Mother's Are Always Free

Friday, May 19th

Initiation Night 6:00 PM

Steaks & Stuff Dinner

5:30 to 7:30 pm

Monday, May 29th

Memorial Day

A day of remembrance for our Veterans Who Gave All

Services by the American Legion and VFW
will be held at the Hickerson & Anchor Point Cemeteries.

The Origins of Memorial Day

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared it should be May 30. It is believed the date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. The ceremonies centered around the mourning- draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

Local Observances Claim To Be First

Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, Miss., April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the



enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well. Today, cities in the North and the South claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Both Macon and Columbus, Ga., claim the title, as well as Richmond, Va. The village of Boalsburg, Pa., claims it began there two years earlier. A stone in a Carbondale, Ill., cemetery carries the statement that the first Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29, 1866. Carbondale was the wartime home of Gen. Logan. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried.

Official Birthplace Declared

In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., the “birthplace” of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866, honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff. Supporters of Waterloo’s claim say earlier observances in other places were either informal, not community-wide or one-time events. By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities. It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

Some States Have Confederate Observances

Many Southern states also have their own days for honoring the Confederate dead. Mississippi celebrates Confederate Memorial Day on the last Monday of April, Alabama on the fourth Monday of April, and Georgia on April 26. North and South Carolina observe it on May 10, Louisiana on June 3 and Tennessee calls that date Confederate Decoration Day. Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day January 19 and Virginia calls the last Monday in May Confederate Memorial Day.

Gen. Logan’s order for his posts to decorate graves in 1868 “with the choicest flowers of springtime” urged: “We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. ... Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.”

The crowd attending the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery was approximately the same size as those that attend today’s observance, about 5,000 people. Then, as now, small American flags were placed on each grave — a tradition followed at many national cemeteries today. In recent years, the custom has grown in many families to decorate the graves of all departed loved ones.

The origins of special services to honor those who die in war can be found in antiquity. The Athenian leader Pericles offered a tribute to the fallen heroes of the Peloponnesian War over 24 centuries ago that could be applied today to the 1.1 million Americans who have died in the nation’s wars: “Not only are they commemorated by columns and inscriptions, but there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not on stone but in the hearts of men.”

To ensure the sacrifices of America’s fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law “The National Moment of Remembrance Act,” P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance.

The commission’s charter is to “encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity” by encouraging and coordinating commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance.

The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation. As Moment of Remembrance founder Carmella LaSpada states: "It's a way we can all help put the memorial back in Memorial Day."

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, D.C.



If you plan to change or have changed your mailing or email address or your contact phone number please let us know so that we may keep in touch with you.

Just drop the Lodge Secretary a message at homereik@gci.net and we'll make sure to update our records. Or you can call the lodge at 907-235-2127 and leave your info with whomever answers. Thanks Much.

If you are delinquent in your dues and cannot find your statement, just clip the coupon below and mail it in with your payment. Or better yet, swing on by the Lodge after 3 pm, have your favorite beverage and pay there.

2023 ~ 2024 Lodge Dues Coupon	
Homer Elks Lodge 2127	
Member Name:	_____ Mbr.No. _____
<u>Dues & Donations Amounts</u>	
• \$ 197.00 _____	(mandatory dues amount, includes lodge, state & national dues)
• \$ _____	(\$10 optional Elks National Foundation)
• \$ _____	(\$10 optional Alaska Elks Trust Fund)
• \$ _____	(\$10 optional State Elks Wounded Veterans Project)
• \$ _____	(\$20 optional Lodge unrestricted use)
• \$ _____	Total Amount Enclosed
Make checks payable to Homer Elks Lodge #2127 and mail to 215 W. Jenny Way, Homer, AK 99603.	



HOMER ELKS LODGE 2127

MAY 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Lounge Is Open Monday—Saturday 3:00 pm to Closing	1 House Committee & Trustees Mtgs. All members welcome	2 Lodge Meeting 7 pm All members encouraged to attend	3 	4 	5 Dining 5:30 pm Mexican Fiesta Elk Hunt Drawing	6 Kentucky Derby Day Come in and try one of our specialty beverages
7	8	9	10 	11 	12 Dining 5:30 pm Emblem is Cooking Elk Hunt Drawing	13
14 Past Exalted Ruler's Mother's Day Breakfast 10:00a—12:30p	15 House Committee & Board Directors Mtgs. All members welcome HHS Graduation	16 Lodge Meeting 7 pm All members encouraged to attend	17 	18 	19 Initiation 6 pm Dining 5:30 pm Steaks & Stuff Elk Hunt Drawing Meat Raffle Drawing & Mario Carboni is back	
21 CLOSED	22	23	24 	25 	26 Dining 5:30 pm Mouth Watering Prime Rib Elk Hunt Drawing	27
28 CLOSED	30 	31 	<div> Please Don't Drink & Drive The Bartender Will Be Happy to Call A Cab For You </div>			

Elks Care - *Elks* Share