

West Des Moines Elks Lodge #2752
February 2026 Newsletter
 2060 NW 94th St Clive, IA 50325
www.wdmelks.com 515-252-1717



Message From Your Exalted Ruler



I would like to start by congratulating our Law Enforcement Professionals of the year. The ceremony was held at the lodge on January 14.

The following professionals were awarded plaques from the Elks. Officer Adam McGilvra with Clive Police Department, Sargeant Ray Dirkson with Dallas County Sheriff's Office, Trooper David Wonders with Iowa State Patrol, Detective Dustin Runge with Johnston Police Department, Lieutenant Todd Galetich with Polk County Sheriff's Office, Officer Brian Butcher with Urbandale Police Department, Detective John Young with Waukee Police Department, Officer Donovan Roe with West Des Moines Police Department and Officer Matthew Palmer with Windsor Heights Police Department.



Law Enforcement Professionals of the Year

ER Message Continues on page 2

2025-2026
Lodge Officers

- Exalted Ruler..... Chryssy Ellis
exaltedruler@wdmelks.com
- Leading Knight..... Rich Kreitzinger
- Loyal Knight..... Frank Dunn
- Lecturing Knight..... Dwight Taylor
- Esquire Open
- Tiler..... Kevin Marean
- Inner Guard..... Nina Steele
- Chaplain..... Andy Hansen
- Treasurer..... Craig Crossland, PER
treasurer@wdmelks.com
- Secretary..... Toby Charloe
secretary@wdmelks.com

Trustees

- 1 Year Trustee..... Jeff Garrison, PER
- 2 Year Trustee..... Greg Weinschenk, PER
- 3 Year Trustee..... Becky Young, PER
- 4 Year Trustee..... Roger Fiori, PER
- 5 Year Trustee..... Michael Buckley, PER



The West Des Moines Elks Newsletter is published monthly, Edited by Greg & Terri Osby. All articles must be submitted by the 20th of each month. Please submit your articles to news@wdmelks.com

Message From Your Exalted Ruler, continued...

February may be the shortest month of the year, but it is an important one for our lodge and our members. It's a time to reflect on our shared commitment to Elkdom while also looking ahead to the leadership that will guide us in the coming year.

Our PER Lodge Meeting and Officer Nominations will take place on February 9th. This meeting is an important opportunity to honor the experience and service of our Past Exalted Rulers while also opening the floor for nominations of officers. Strong leadership is the foundation of a strong lodge, and we encourage all eligible members to attend, participate, and consider stepping forward or supporting those who are willing to serve.

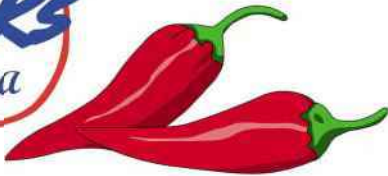
Later in the month, voting for office candidates will be held on February 23rd. This is your chance to have a voice in the future of our lodge by casting your ballot. Your participation ensures that our lodge continues to thrive with leadership chosen by its members.

As always, fellowship, service and community remain at the heart of everything we do. Thank you for your continued dedication to our lodge and to the principles of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. We look forward to seeing you at our February meetings.

In fellowship,
Chrissy Ellis, Exalted Ruler



2752 Chili Cook-off was a cold but worthwhile success!



On Saturday, Jan 19th, the Lodge of 2752 had our annual Elks Chili Cook-Off. Toby Charloe put the event together with helpers Sheila and Cliff Morris.

It was very cold outside, but we warmed it up inside with some great chili and camaraderie. We only had 6 brave souls that brought their chili to be judged but we all had plenty to warm us up. Paul Stiles came away with the big prize, just ahead of Joe Goode. Ron Young, Larry Cramer, Cliff Morris and Tom Vath also contributed to the fun. Our Cook-off was a fundraiser for our Heritage Scholarship Fund and we did a good job with that in raising \$230 in donations!

TRUSTEE CORNER

If you are reading this, Thank You!

If you did not read this...**well don't complain!**

The newsletter is the main way the lodge communicates with its membership. This is where we tell members about things we have done, things we want to do, say thank you, ask for help, and let you know about upcoming events at the lodge.

A lot of effort goes into producing the newsletter. Not only from those who contribute to its content, but the many, many hours it takes to format that content into a readable newsletter. This formatting is done primarily by our chief editors and publishers Greg & Terri Osby.

THANK YOU GREG & TERRI!

Roger Fiori, PER, Head Trustee



Wow! We did it again.

Our January 11 th 2026 Pancake Breakfast Buffet and Bake Sale was another success serving 121 members and guests which included 3 Urbandale Police Officers, 3 Clive Firefighters and 15 Veterans who were transported from the Des Moines Veterans Hospital (Domicile). We always thank the first responders and Veterans for their service.

Our fantastic volunteers who prepare and serve our delicious breakfast deserve to be recognized for their continued service: Gloria Riesberg, Rosie Surber, Alice Jensen, Brian Becker, Roxanne Ludwig, Nina Steele, Ann Bobo (bar), Beth DuPuy, Ted DuPuy, Toby Charloe, Doug Laird, Forrest Laidlaw, Neil Davies, Mark Bergman and Larry Cramer. Thanks for everything you do.

This month our bake sale brought in \$317 from free will donations which will be donated to our West Des Moines Lodge Heritage Scholarship fund. Again, thank you to Nancy Newcomb, Jenny Becker, Brian Becker and Gloria Criswell. And thanks to all of our lodge volunteers who continue to provide the delicious pastries, pies and cookies. Another big thank you goes out to Nina Steele for taking our left-over food to the Bethel Mission to help feed the homeless.



Don't forget our wonderful Bake Sale! They are So Delicious! ...and a great Fundraiser!

Our delicious breakfast buffet includes: Biscuits and Gravy, French Toast, Scrambled eggs, Bacon, Sausage patties, Cheesy Potatoes, and of course all you can eat Pancakes (including Blueberry and Chocolate chip pancakes), Orange juice, Milk, and Coffee. Enjoy a Bloody Mary or Mimosa for only \$3.50. We are serving from 8:00 a.m. till noon, only \$11 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under. All proceeds support our Hoop Shoot Program and other youth activities. Please pay the bartender for your breakfast

Our next Sunday Breakfast will be February 8th, 2026.

Elks Care - Elks Share



Giving Back to First Responders

Lodge Activities Committee

LAC Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2025

Present: Julie Kafer, Becky Young, Toby Charloe, Tammy Bechen, Dick and Judy Cordle, Dave Kroeger, Mashelle Bollie, Robert Greenway, and Sheila Morris.

Special Activities for February:

All activities are on the monthly calendar on the last page of this Newsletter.

February 5, Thursday. Thirsty Thursday.

February 8, Sunday. Breakfast/Bake Sale

February 8, Sunday. Super Bowl Game

February 12, Thursday. Wine Night. 6:30pm

February 19, Thursday. Bourbon Night. 6:30pm

February 20, Friday. Puzzle Night. New Event.

February 28, Saturday. Tasty Soup Night/Band Jana West & RetroSpect

Upcoming Activities for March:

March 5, Thursday. Thirsty Thursday/Burger Baskets.

March 8, Sunday. Breakfast/Bake Sale

March 12, Thursday, Wine Night 6:30 pm

March 14, Saturday. St. Patrick's Corn Beef and Cabbage dinner

March 19, Thursday, Bourbon Night 6:30 pm

March 20, Friday, New Event. Trivia Night. 7 pm.

March 24, Tuesday. B-day Night 6 pm

March 27, Friday. Installations of Officers 6 pm

March 28, Saturday. Elks Riders Fundraiser. More to come.

NO LAC Meeting in February

Next LAC Meeting: March 16, 6:30 pm

Julie Kafer, LAC Chair



ELKS ANGELS Meeting

Tuesday February 10th
will be meeting for lunch at
Cosi Cucina's on 86th St at 1:00pm.
RSVP: Marge Porter (515)371-3158
or Vicky Waters (515)710-5922



ELKS Riders Meeting

Tuesday February 10th
at 6:30pm



Elks Float in the Rose Parade!

Thank you DEER HUNTERS!

Iowa Elks Veterans
Leather Program 2025



*Our Final Hide
Count was 115!*

**2025 WAS ANOTHER
SUCCESSFUL DEER HIDE SEASON
THANKS TO ALL OF OUR
DEER HUNTERS AND FRIENDS**

The Iowa Elks Veteran Leather Program has wrapped up another season. Our lodge did a terrific job, collecting and salting 115 hides (we collected 150 hides last year). The hides were stored in our lodge deer hide shed where they were salted down. We transported the hides to Red Oak on a balmy 10-degree Sunday morning on January 18th (a 4 hour round trip not counting loading and unloading our trailer.) Red Oak is the SW District's deer hide collection location.

Thanks to all of our members, friends and deer hunters who participated to make this an outstanding 26th year for our lodge's participation in this great program.

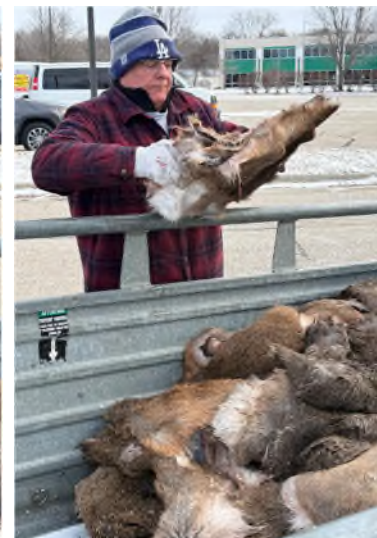
A special thank you goes out to Greg "Radar" Weinschenk PER, Neil Davies and Larry Cramer PER, for collecting, salting, and transporting the deer hides. Also, a big thank you goes out to Curtis Blystone PER of Red Oak Lodge who is in charge of the Southwest District Deer Hide collection point and storage area. Curtis also helped us unload the trailer along with 3 members from Des Moines Lodge #98. A big thank you also goes out to Green Tree for the use of one of their buildings to store the hides. Again, thank you. The SW District collected 715 hides this year (up from 599 in 2024!)

All of the collected hides will now be transported back to Wartrace, Tennessee (near Nashville) to Coey Tanning Co. They will keep 60% of the hides to cover their cost. The tanned hides will then be given to our Veterans Home in Marshalltown and other V.A. Hospitals for their leather craft programs. The Veterans in turn will make leather crafts such as belts, billfolds, purses, coats, and gun cases. Over 3,300 pairs of wheel chair gloves last year were donated to disabled Veterans. 3545 deer hides were collected during the 2024 deer season last year by the Iowa Elks.

THIS ALL STARTS WITH YOUR DEER HIDES.

Also, a big thank you to our Iowa State Chair, Curtis Blystone who organizes and promotes the Iowa Elks leather deer hide program. A job well done. Curtis is also the National Director for the Elks Leather Program.

**"AS LONG AS THERE ARE VETERANS,
THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS
WILL NEVER FORGET THEM."**





New Year's Eve was a Blast!



**New Year's Eve was such fun!
The band Burnin' Sensations was one of the best bands we have ever had!**

Thanks to Nina Steele for her wonderful decorations and getting the tables ready. I had some great helpers! Kathy Winger, Mashelle Bollie, Clark and Dee Peterson helped with the food table. Tina Fazio donated the Nacho Bar and delicious bacon wrapped water chestnuts. Mashelle Bollie donated two taco dips. Thank you. A special thank you to Rich Kreitzinger for helping shop for appetizers and helping set up. I could not do all this without such supportive members. Julie Kafer, LAC Chair



Burnin' Sensations



WDM Elks 2025 Fall Vendor Show was held Saturday, November 1st



VETERANS ARE SUPPORTED BY THE ELKS!

West Des Moines Elks lodge was able to provide Christmas gifts for 16 Veterans from the Des Moines VA Medical Center!

Member Mashelle Bollie organized the Vendor show with 25 Vendors. The event brought in \$1,647 and the Lodge added money to make it an even \$2,000. Mashelle worked with Nurse Manager Alicia McInteer and with Volunteer Services coordinators; Eddie Gutierrez and Travis Huckaby to identify the Veterans in need and the type of gifts they would need and appreciate for Christmas. "The Vets loved their gifts" stated Alicia McInteer.



Vendor show picture and pictures of gifts purchased for Veterans.

Firsty Thirsty Thursday!



Thursday, February 5th!

Firsty Thirsty Thursday is **ONLY** on the first Thursday of the month...
\$2.50 domestic bottled beer all evening.

We will be offering our **Hamburger or Cheeseburger Basket with fries** for only \$8. We will also have **Chicken Tenders Basket** or **TRY our NEW Chicken Tender Salad**.

Other appetizers will be available for purchase.
Food served from 5pm until 7pm. **Yummy!!**



**Join us for our Breakfast Buffet
& Bake Sale on Sunday February 8th!**
and enjoy a delicious Elks Breakfast serving 8am to noon.

Our delicious breakfast buffet still includes: Biscuits and Gravy, French Toast, Scrambled eggs, Bacon, Sausage patties, Cheesy Potatoes, and of course all you can eat Pancakes (including Blueberry and Chocolate chip pancakes), Orange juice, Milk, and Coffee. Enjoy a Bloody Mary or Mimosa - only \$3.50.

Only \$11 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under.

All proceeds support our Hoop Shoot Program and other youth activities !

*Please Join Us
Thursday Night
February 12th at 6:30pm*

FEBRUARY WINE NIGHT
WINE IS MY VALENTINE!

Come celebrate the **Season of LOVE**
at the February Elks Wine Night.

Whether you share your wine with
your spouse, significant other, or bestie...
we want to introduce you to some wine
that may be just right for you!

You can look forward
to a refreshing
selection of wines.

Thank you for always being
so supportive!

*As usual, we will supply some appetizers.
We are always thrilled when you bring
something (never required).*



Only \$15 Per Person
*Includes 1 glass of wine and samples!
Light appetizers provided!*



**Join us to relax
and enjoy some wine!**



BOURBON NIGHT

Thursday, February 19th

Bourbon Night will be once per month always on the 3rd Thursday of each month.



Welcome Back Bourbon!

What a happy group of Bourbon Drinkers we had in January for our first Elks Bourbon Night of 2026!

Thank you for sharing such positive feedback to the committee ; Gage, Joe, Tammy, and Brian (missing Dwight & Vicky). Make sure you plan to spend another fun night sipping bourbon on February 19th.

If you have hesitated attending please know that we have a friendly group that consists of Men & Women / Younger & Older!

We will recognize Valentine's Day by offering our take on a Valentine's Old Fashioned.

We will have a few appetizers, but would love if you decide to bring something to share (but not required).

Bourbon is an acquired taste.

BOUR-BON
/'bə:b(ə)n
noun
Magic brown water
for fun people

If you don't like it, then you should acquire some taste.

GAME NIGHT

At The Elks!

*Tuesday
February 3rd
and
Tuesday
February 17th
at 6:30pm*

We will be playing Sweep!
***Plus, bring your favorite game - board games,
cards, etc. Attendees will agree upon
what games to play together!***
Join Us!



Pictured: Pam Gavin, Deb Shepard, Eileen Idso, Connie Allen, Darlene Schluter, Paula and Mike Venema, Tina and Joe Fazio, Tammy and Joe Bechen.

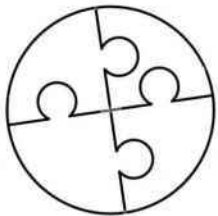


Puzzles, Puzzles, Puzzles!!

Are you good at putting puzzles together? Join in the Fun!

When: Friday Night, February 20 at 6 pm.

Sign up sheet at the Lodge...



**We will divide the Lodge members up into 4 Teams.
*Get to know other Lodge members or guests.***

Each puzzle will be the same and about 500 pieces.

Go Teams! Go!

The winning team will get a prize. Plus all members doing the puzzle night will be entered into a drawing for great prizes too!!

Bring an appetizer to share!



Tasty Soup Night!

Saturday, February 28, 6pm

It's still cold outside!!

Let's warm up!

...with Hot Soup and a Hot Band!

Jana West & Retrospect will be playing 7-10pm

Do you make the Best Soup? (*Not Chili*)

Make a pot of Chicken and Noodles,
Tortellini Soup, Vegetable Soup, Potato Soup
or your own Special Recipe Soup.

Vote on the best one. Come sample them. Fun Prizes!!!

Plus bragging rights until next year.

Come join the Fun!!



**Live
Band!**

**Jana West &
Retrospect
will be playing
from 7
till 10pm!**

SUPER BOWL PARTY



PLEASE JOIN US!
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8th, 2026
KICK-OFF: 5:30pm

Clubroom open all day on February 8th!
Join us from 8 till 12 for our Breakfast & Bake Sale!
Ham -n- Beans by Russ Youngquist
Bring your favorite tailgate food to share!



*“SUPER” Food Drive at the
West Des Moines Elks Lodge
Continues Through Feb 8th!*
*In conjunction with the
Super Bowl Party!*

Lets Set A Record!

**Please bring
Canned Food Items
for the Food Pantry!**

BIRTHDAY NIGHT AT THE ELKS!

Tuesday, February 24th at 6pm

**All Members and their guests
are welcome to join us and help
celebrate all of this month's Birthdays!**

Appetizers & Birthday Cake are provided!

**IT'S MY
BIRTHDAY
MONTH**

Come Celebrate with me!

01 Larry Cramer	09 Kenneth Milosevic	20 Vicky Taylor
01 Laura Jackson	09 Connie Chiles	21 Steven Allen
01 Jean Salz	09 Rebecca Goldin	21 David Bennett
02 Mark Bergmann	11 Dawnica King	22 Steven Cox
02 Evan Gotsdiner	12 Lynn Cerjak	23 Bobbie Bishop
03 Sandra Baughman	12 Shane Millard	23 Jeff Dutenhoeffer
03 Rollie Bredeson	13 Virginia Jones	24 Matt Banzhaf
03 Connie Allen	13 Dustin Kingery	24 Mark Holloway
04 Gary Lewis	13 Troy Wright	25 Ted Lane
04 Clark Peterson	14 Butch Duske	25 Brad Goode
05 Roxanne Ludwig	14 Doug Williams	25 Andrea Pascale
06 Valerie Eagen	15 Richard Alston	26 Charles Krauth
06 Christine Ellis	15 James Johnson	26 Scott Loecke
06 Andy Hansen	15 Mark Moss	26 Joyce McMickle
06 Julieann Kafer	15 Timothy Pettit	26 Andy McNaught
06 Donna Egan	16 Brian Ardary	26 Kevin Schneider
06 Shelly Moore	16 Douglas Dorsey	27 Roger Hansen
07 Cynthia Korb	17 Danette Clark	27 Matther Mclvor
07 Paula Venema	17 Mark Stites	28 Michael Friedel
08 Trisha Barakat	18 Gloria Riesberg	28 Greg Bond
08 Jodi Greene	19 Anna Ludwig	29 Keith Butz
08 Paul Stuber	19 Bradley Westpheling	29 Joy Droessler
09 Michael Alfstad	19 Shari Laird	
09 Joseph Fratianni	19 Misty Weinschenk	

**Wish these Elk Members
& Spouses a special
Happy Birthday!**
when you see them

**The individuals listed above can stop in for a free "birthday
cocktail, beer or soft drink" anytime during the month in
which they are recognized in our newsletter!**

If we missed your birthday – please let us know!
news@wdmelks.com













WDM Elks Lodge #2752
 515-252-1717
 www.wdmelks.com

February 2026



All listings are tentative – watch for email updates!
 If you don't receive emails – Let us know!
news@wdmelks.com
 All Meals are \$11.00 and served
 at 6:15 pm unless stated otherwise.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Open Noon - 7pm Burger Baskets <i>Served 12-5pm</i> Play Pool - 1:30 Burger Baskets Only \$8 Bingo 2pm Sell: Nancy Newcomb Call: Patti Bond Team: Joyce McMickle, Joy Droessler, Ella Harban & Rita Lans	Open 4:30 - 9:00  House/Board Meetings 6:30pm All Members welcome	Open 4:30 - 9:00  <i>9 to 5'ers meet at Nine AM!</i> GAME NIGHT 6:30pm Join Us	Open 4:30 - 9:00 No Scheduled Dinner Need a Team! Stop in and enjoy a pizza NAV Team You?	Open 4:30 - 9:00/Close Firsty Thirsty Thursday \$2.50 Well Drinks \$8 Burger Basket Grill Specials Bingo 7pm Sell: Nancy Newcomb Call: Roger Fiori Gloria C, Jen Chambers, Beth Kneeskern & NAV	Open 4:30 - 9:00/Close	Open 4:30 - 9:00/Close
Open 8am - 7pm Elk's Breakfast & Bake Sale <i>8am till Noon</i> Super Bowl Sunday! Bingo 2pm Sell: Paul Stiles Call: Roger Halbur Team: Gloria C, Rita Lans Mashelle B, Ella Harban	Open 4:30 - 9:00  Lodge Meeting 7:00pm All Members welcome	Open 4:30 - 9:00  <i>9 to 5'ers meet at Nine AM!</i> 2:00pm <i>Elks Angels Meeting</i> 6:30pm <i>Elks Riders Meeting</i>	Open 4:30 - 9:00 Tenderloin Sandwich French Fries Salad & Dessert Team Murphy <i>Serving at 6:15pm</i>	Open 4:30 - 9:00 Wine Night 6:30pm Bingo 7pm Sell: Jason Larreau Call: Roger Fiori Checker/Concessions, Gloria Criswell, Nancy Newcomb & Rita Lans	Open 4:30 - 9:00/Close	Open 4:30 - 9:00/Close
Open Noon - 7pm Burger Baskets <i>Served 12-5pm</i> Play Pool - 1:30 Bingo 2pm Sell: Carla Sanburg Call: Patti Bond Checker/Concessions, Joyce McMickle Jen Chambers Ella Harban, and NAV	Open 4:30 - 9:00 No LAC Lodge Activities Committee Meeting in February	Open 4:30 - 9:00  <i>9 to 5'ers meet at Nine AM!</i> GAME NIGHT 6:30pm Join Us	Open 4:30 - 9:00 No Scheduled Dinner Need a Team! Stop in and enjoy a pizza NAV Team You?	Open 4:30 - 9:00 Bourbon Night! 6:30pm Bingo 7pm Sell: Nancy Newcomb Call: Roger Fiori Checker/Concessions, Joyce McMickle, Jen Chambers, & NAV	Open 4:30 - 9:00/Close Puzzle Night! 6:00pm	Open 4:30 - 9:00/Close
Open Noon - 7pm Burger Baskets <i>Served 12-5pm</i> Play Pool - 1:30 Bingo 2pm Sell: Nancy Newcomb Call: Roger Halbur Checker/Concessions, Joyce McMickle Joy Droessler, Rita Lans, and Ella Harban	Open 4:30 - 9:00  Lodge Meeting 7:00pm All Members welcome	Open 4:30 - 9:00  <i>9 to 5'ers meet at Nine AM!</i> Birthday Night! 6:00 pm Join Us!	Open 4:30 - 9:00 Chicken Ramano Meatballs over Lemon Crème Linguine, Salad, Roll and Dessert Team Ridnour <i>Serving at 6:15pm</i>	Open 4:30 - 9:00 Bingo 7pm Sell: JC Criswell Call: Roger Fiori Checker/Concessions Gloria Criswell, Mashelle Bolлие, and Nancy Newcomb	Open 4:30 - 9:00/Close	Open 4:30 - 9:00/Close Tasty Soup Night! 6pm Live Band! Jana West & RetroSpect
	One Day Per month? 	Can you help one day a month? Just because there are names in most positions doesn't mean we don't need volunteers, several folks are working 3, 4, 5 and 6 per month due to not having enough volunteers!	Dinner Crews Needed! Could you help one Wednesday Night per month? Call Roger Fiori at 515-201-6707	Bingo Volunteers Needed! Could you help at one BINGO Session per month? Call Nancy Newcomb at 515-681-0852	Notice a FEW people doing a LOT of work?  NAV = Need a Volunteer!	