

OFFICERS OF 1879

Exalted Ruler
Sherry Amerson*

Leading Knight
James Carnley*

Loyal Knight
Karla Boyse*

Lecturing Knight
Frank Bishop*

Secretary
Gretchen Morrow*

Treasurer
Marian Tucker*

Esquire
Donnie Ryals

Chaplain
Mike Herrin

Tiler
JeanAnn Seals

Inner Guard
Jim Trainer

Trustees
5 Larry Greene*
4 Gordon Bell*
3 Randy Svitak*
2 Patrick Seals*
1 Danny Pulliam*

Grant Coordinator
Patty Ginder

*Board of Directors

Lodge will meet on
the 2nd Thursday &
4th Thursday in
February
12th & 26th

* * *

February 12th
7pm Balloting,
February 26th
Orientation &
Initiations 7pm.

* * *

If you're applicant is
being initiated please
plan to attend.

Thank you!



EXALTED RULERS MESSAGE

Mardi Gras season has commenced, marking the final two months of the Elk year and initiating preparations for the upcoming year. Nominations for new officers will take place at the February 12th meeting, with elections scheduled for February 26th. Members interested in assuming officer roles are encouraged to express their interest or attend the February 12th meeting. Additionally, we seek members willing to participate in various committees.

Our organization receives grants supporting numerous charitable initiatives through the Elks National Foundation. To remain eligible for these grants, certain requirements must be met. Each fulfilled requirement increases our potential funding. One specific criterion is a minimum number of members contributing a monthly donation to the ENF (with amounts starting at \$5 per month), set up via elks.org for automatic withdrawal. Currently, we require five additional members to enroll to qualify for extra grant funding.

Recent improvements include the installation of new handrails at the lodge entrance; gratitude is extended to Jim Trainer, Shawn Boyse, and Randy Pizzotti for their exceptional efforts. Fundraising activities for facility enhancements are ongoing, with a progress thermometer displayed within the lodge. Contributions to this project are encouraged and everyone will be pleased with the results.



In January, thirty-six members and their spouses attended the Alabama Elks Mid-year Convention in Orange Beach, providing valuable opportunities for idea exchange and operational insights from other lodges. Such events also help identify areas for improvement. Member engagement is essential to further strengthen our lodge's standing in Alabama.

We continue to welcome new members and ask all to attend meetings and become acquainted with the latest additions to our community. The next initiation will be conducted during the second February meeting. Several upcoming events are planned, including expanded hours on Tuesdays beginning March 17th, St. Patrick's Day, when food and the annual Adult Scavenger Hunt will be offered. Participation in the hunt is a lot of fun.

As the Elk year concludes, a complimentary appreciation dinner will be held on March 28th. Reservations should be made at the bar, and all members and their guests are invited to attend. I enjoy meeting, talking, and hearing ideas from our members. Reach out to me or flag me down at the lodge with any concerns or ideas (or just to talk)

Sherry Amerson, Exalted Ruler
251-680-0979



01	Jay	Cosgrove
02	Mitchell	Damsky
02	Tom	Gibson
03	James	Trainer
03	Jessica	Wagner
04	Christopher	Corbett
04	Edward	Schnell
04	Jimmie	Weems
04	Don	Witucki
05	Seth	Arnold
05	Elizabeth	Birmingham
05	Charlie	Rainer
06	Donald	Fore
06	Harold	Smith
07	Winfred	Helton Jr.
07	Betsy	Key
07	Sam	Noble
09	Dan	Beasley
09	Pete	Clement
09	Russell	Cowles
09	Rick	Findley
09	Katy	Schellhase
12	Willis	Cannon
12	Anita	Cowles

14	Crystal	Eberlein
14	Daniel	Sullivan Sr.
15	Donna	DiMartino
15	Cheryl	Johannesman
15	Christopher	Klein
16	Michael	Kelley
18	Anna	Etheridge
19	James	Staudacher
20	Charles	Freeman
20	Charles	Vogt
21	Sean	Chappell
21	Victor	Rohler Jr.
21	Mark	Vamos
22	Kenneth	Banks
22	Marsha	Baugh
22	Dakota	Johnson
24	Peggy	Freeman
24	Joseph	Roberts
24	Tamara	Wintzell
25	Mary	Tidey
27	Fred	Fassbender
27	Jeremy	Hovater
28	Patrick	Guy
29	Jeffrey	Hughes

Waiting Initiation	
<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Proposer</u>
Gretchen Coats	Donald White
Christopher Smith	Christopher Riley
Wendy Glaze	Nancy Mooreman
Grayson Glaze	Nancy Mooreman
Claire Godwin	Betsy Key
Daniel McKenzie	Beth Parris
Alice A. Key-Myrick	Chris Moore
Darrin Swan	Jason DeVane #1887 Dothan, AL
Deborah Whitney	Chris Carrier
Gavin Wohlmacher	Gretchen Morrow

New Applicants	
<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Proposer</u>
Wayne Ehrlich	Catherine Collier
Debra Gibson	Catherine Collier
William Prendergast	Mel Cosgrove
Erin B. Fleming	Amber Carrier
April Thrasher	Betsy Key

Reinstatement Requests	
<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Proposer</u>
Otis G. Reed	Jim Tucker

ELKS
Reminder to Renew
Pay your dues today!
Contact your Lodge Secretary
ELKS LODGE MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT DUE!!
Community • Friendship • Charity

A note from the Secretary ...

We are currently reporting **521** members for our Fairhope Lodge, 35 of these members are past due and are in danger of being dropped on March 31, 2026. The full list of delinquent members is posted on the bulletin board in the lounge hallway - If you happen to notice an acquaintance or a friend's name on the list that you haven't seen around lately feel free to reach out to them, invite them down to the lodge for a meal, to play Bingo or to simply just try to catch back up with them.

The yearly Dues for the upcoming 2026 - 2027 year will be \$141 per member and \$66 per Life member. If you have not already received your statement from the Grand Lodge you should receive it shortly. I would like to thank those of you that have already submitted your dues payments, I plan to start printing the new membership cards mid to late March and aim to have the key card lock system updated the first week of April. We are asking members to please consider donating an additional \$10 at the time of your dues payment to the Elks National Foundation (ENF) - our goal is to make lodge 1879 #1 in the State in the upcoming Elk year!

I am usually in the office on Mondays and on meeting nights. Do not hesitate to reach out to me if you need assistance with anything - I can be reached by phone, via email, or you can always drop a note in the "red mailbox" in the hall.

As always, if you have something to include in an upcoming edition, please send me all articles, photos and calendar information for the next newsletter by the **20th of February**.

Thank you,

Gretchen Morrow, Secretary
elks1879secretary@gmail.com

When Elkdom Shines, Elkdom Grows!

Have you recently moved? Has your phone number or email address changed? Reach out to me so we can update your records

Elks Care... Elks Share...

We would like to send out huge thanks to our members that help make our lodge better just by doing the things they do best! Take a look {and maybe a feel} at our new handrails!

Special Recognition goes to

- **Jim Trainer** with Alabama Iron Works (handrails & install)
- **Shawn Boyse & Vulcan, Inc** (sign)
- **Randy Pizzotti** (paint)
- **Ms. Ann Cocoran & Ms. Carol Bittner** for working on the front cleaning doors etc!!



Membership is Booming

Members, be sure to give a WARM wELKome to our **13** new January Initiates:

Laura Carter, Lorrie Hanna, Buddy Hart, Scott Jackson, Gary Langswager, Mary Matzenger, Stephanie Sandefer, Jennifer Steiniger, Suzy Tucker, Anthony Walker, Tamara Wintzell, Lisa Word and Randell Word.



Grand Exalted Ruler Membership Award Standings

Elks Membership Awards are earned for sponsoring any combination of New or Reinstated Members Initiated into our great order between

July 3, 2025 ~ June 12, 2026

Here are the current Member Standings for the Grand Exalted Ruler PIN Award:



- ◇ **Award achieved:** Joseph Roberts @ **3** new members.
- ◇ **1 more to go:** Dawn Egan, Jennifer Phipps, Justin Crabtree, Carolyn Bowen, Piper Uhlig, Chris Moore, Fran Moore, Brooks Wise, Bonnie Corner, Russell Cowles @ **2** new members ea.
- ◇ **2 more to go:** William Beck, Sarge Sansone, Jim Trainer, Betsy Key, John Hamrick, Dan Sullivan, Les Lagerstrom, Robert Glasscock, Jennifer Striano, John Clarkson, Michael Patrick, Chris Carrier, Gale Brogden, Brian Roach, Jim Tucker, Beverly Bradley, Linda Lemmon, Robert Wiederhold, Danny Pulliam, Seth Arnold and Walter Zaykowski @ **1** new member ea.

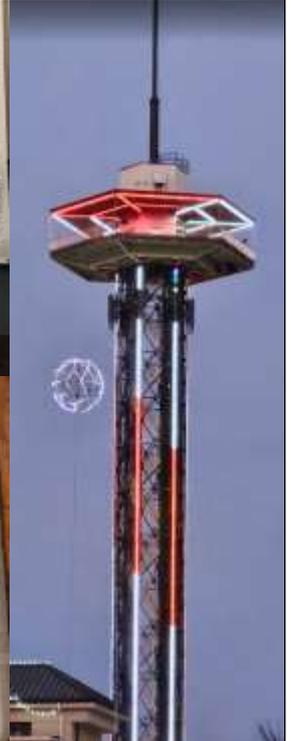
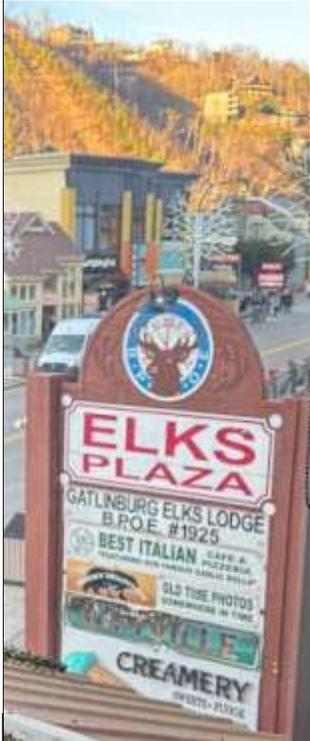
Here are the current Member Standings for the Grand Exalted Ruler WRIST WATCH Award:



- ◇ **3 more to go:** Amber Carrier @ **8** new members.
- ◇ **4 more to go:** Donald White @ **7** new members.
- ◇ **5 more to go:** Gretchen Morrow @ **6** new members.
- ◇ **7 more to go:** Prissy Leavins @ **4** new members.
- ◇ **8 more to go:** Gordon Bell, Catherine Collier and Joseph Roberts @ **3** new members ea.

Members Visiting Other Lodges

Fairhope member Lee Walker and his wife Laurie visited the **Gatlinburg TN Elks Lodge #1925** on New Years Eve.



Lee & Laurie also stopped by the **Biloxi MS Elks Lodge #606** over the January 16th weekend where they watched some Football and meet some nice people. Lee stated that the Biloxi Lodge is a very cool place and proceeded to say that the Lodge even bought them a round of drinks since they were visiting - their members were very nice and they were told for any Fairhope Elks members to come by anytime and hang out! This MS Lodge is right off of beach road, they have a killer view of the water, similar to ours!



Chaplain's Corner

"So if you have not been trustworthy, in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?"

Luke 16:11

There is no such thing as a part-time Christian; we are all in full-time ministry. We each need to ask God to take our personal life as well as our vocation and make it a ministry.

Mike Herrin



Fairhope Emblem #241

Happy Groundhog Day and Happy Valentines Day,

I hope everyone is staying warm. Here are your February dates to remember:

February 4th - Spaghetti Night 6pm

February 4th - Meeting 7pm

February 27th - Fiesta Friday 6:30pm

We offer a gluten free option on all meals. Please come down and join us. We will welcome you with a smile.

Reminder - Emblem Dues are \$50, and if you do not have a 2025-2026 membership card, your dues are delinquent. 2026-2027 membership cards will be available March 1st.

In Emblem love,

Gail Walley, Financial Secretary

Alabama Mid Year State Convention



This year's Convention was great—Lodge #1879 member presence was spectacular!



Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, Alabama

Thursday January 15, 2026 through Saturday, January 17, 2026



MONTHLY
UPDATES FROM
THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE

On The House



What is the "House Committee"

As stated in section 1-106 of the auditing & accounting manual: The House Committee oversees the operation and management of the Club areas of the Lodge. Club areas are defined as all social areas (Bar, Kitchen, Swimming Pool, etc.) of the Local Lodge. House Committee members are appointed annually by the Exalted Ruler.

2025-2026 House Committee:

Chris Carrier (Committee Chair)

Brooks Wise

Isabel Wilucki

Tabathia Kinnaman

Terry Garner

Reporting to the House Committee:

Karla Boyse (Club Manager)

Emily Rainer (Bar Staff)

Jessie Fuernhofer (Bar Staff)

Welcome to the 1st House Committee Newsletter

It is important that members stay informed & aware of what is happening around YOUR lodge! We hope you find this article informative & helpful!

First, we would like to give a huge round of appreciation to all of our members & volunteers that continue to show up and lend a hand in various ways around the lodge, both inside & out. While the House Committee oversees the operation & management of our social areas, it would be impossible to achieve success without all of you pitching in!

We have a lot of exciting & fun things planned for you and your guests over the coming months. Please make sure that you are reading your newsletter, checking the Facebook page, or stopping by the lodge for details each month and if you have any questions feel free to ask at the bar or email Karla for details. (elks1879clubmanager@gmail.com)

As you know our lodge is experiencing wonderful growth which allows us to have an even larger impact on our community through activities that support veteran's affairs, scholarship for local students, grants, & other charitable efforts.

While growth is good, it also comes with extra expectations & responsibilities of every member. Not the least of which is the requirement that every member carries his/her current { and signed} membership card & key card with them at all times. When we are training new bar staff or the staff is busy serving the needs of members at the bar for food & drinks it can become very difficult to open the door & police incoming traffic through the front door. Using your key card helps ensure that we are not inadvertently allowing non-members to walk in off the street. We ask that everyone please use your key card for entry into the building. Along the same lines, it is the bar staff's explicit responsibility to make sure that everyone in the building is a member or a signed-in guest of a member. Please be prepared to show any of the bar staff your membership if requested. If you have misplaced your card please request a new one through the bar and we will get it to you as soon as possible!

We are looking forward to what 2026 will bring to the lodge and hope that you are excited as well! Working together we can & will continue to be a warm & welcoming place for our members & their guests!

Elks Care, Elks Share

Things to Look Forward To.....

Super Bowl Watch

Party

Sunday 2/8

Lodge opens @ 2 pm

Join us at the lodge for a fun event with delicious wings! Donations support our community. It's a potluck, so bring a dish to share. Gather your friends and enjoy the game with us. See you there!

Come join us on February 22nd for our Annual Chili Cookoff! Anyone can participate in this event, your chili can be prepared at home or at the Lodge. So stop by the Lodge, signup ~ \$10 fee to enter the competition per team of two and/or \$10 fee to taste. The judging will begin around 4pm, winners will be determined by judges and by popular vote.

DO YOU MAKE THE BEST CHILI?



YOU CAN DO IT! - PUT YOUR BEANS INTO IT!

Life is better with a little spice & a lot of Chili!



Join us for a Sunday Brunch Buffet on Sunday, March 1st from 11a - 2p! The Lounge and Bar will be open during the buffet.

\$15 per person



Oh, yes you are reading this correctly! WE WILL BE OPEN on St. Patrick's Day Tuesday, March 17th - So put your green on & stop by the lodge for some good 'Ole Irish fun!



The Lodge is hosting its 1st Annual Elk Appreciation Banquet on Saturday, March 28th - Stay tuned for more details!

Comic Corner

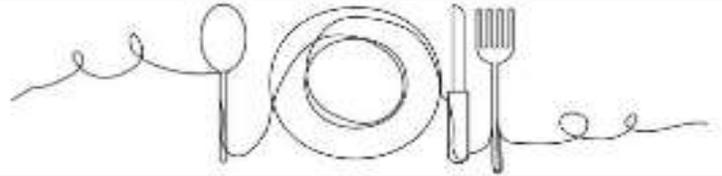


BURGER NIGHT

EVERY MONDAY

Your Choice Burger | Cheese Burger \$6

Your choice Fries or Onion Rings. \$3



Wednesday Night Meals

4th - Emblem Spaghetti & Jackpot BINGO

11th - Beef Tips & Jackpot BINGO

18th - Country Fried Steak & Jackpot BINGO

25th - Chicken Sammiches & Jackpot BINGO

Friday Night Meals

6th - 1st Friday, Fried Chicken

13th - 2nd Friday, Steak Dinner

20th - 3rd Friday, Seafood Night

27th - 4th Friday, Emblem Fiesta Friday



- **Friday Nights:** Trivia/Karaoke
- **Sunday 2/8:** Super Bowl Sunday football on all TV's {Potluck}
- **Sunday 2/22:** Annual Chili Cook-off



- **Friday Nights:** Trivia/Karaoke
- **Sunday 3/1:** 1st Sunday Brunch 11 am-2 pm. Lounge will be open @ 11
- **Tuesday 3/17:** St. Patty's Day Scavenger Hunt.
- **Saturday 3/28:** 1st Annual Elk Appreciation Banquet



- **Friday Nights:** Trivia/Karaoke
- **Saturday 4/4:** Brunch w/the bunny 11 am-2 pm. Lounge will be open @ 11
- **Sunday 4/5:** Annual Adult Easter Egg Hunt starts @ 4pm
- **Saturday 4/18:** Womanless Beauty Pageant



- **Friday Nights:** Trivia/Karaoke
- **Saturday 5/2:** Kentucky Derby Party {Potluck}
- **Sunday 5/3:** 1st Sunday Brunch 11 am-2 pm. Lounge will be open @ 11.
- **Tuesday 5/5:** Cinco De Mayo!!!! Join us for a fun meal and good times!

Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks

Fairhope Lodge No. 1879
 P.O. Box 548
 Fairhope, AL 36533-0548

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<https://www.facebook.com/elkslodge1879>

February 2026

Sun 2pm—close	Mon 5pm—close	Tue Closed	Wed 5pm—close	Thu 5pm—close	Fri 4pm—close	Sat 2pm—close
1	2 Burger Night	3	4 Emblem Spaghetti Jackpot BINGO	5	6 Fried Chicken Dinner Music Trivia & Karaoke	7
8 Super Bowl Watch Party Wings & Potluck	9 Burger Night	10 Marine Corps TFT Appreciation Dinner *Lodge is Closed*	11 Fried Chicken Dinner Jackpot BINGO	12 Lodge Meeting at 7pm	13 Steak Dinner Music Trivia & Karaoke	14
15	16 Burger Night	17	18 Chicken Fried Steak Jackpot BINGO	19	20 Seafood Dinner Music Trivia & Karaoke	21
22 Annual Chili Cook-Off \$10 Entrance Fee or \$10 Taste Fee	23 Burger Night	24	25 Chicken Sammies Jackpot BINGO	26 Lodge Meeting at 7pm	27 Emblem Fiesta Friday Music Trivia & Karaoke	28