



Coolidge-Florence Elks Lodge #2350

The Corral Newsletter: July, 2025

July 9th

2:00 - 6:00

Back to School
Fundraiser

July 6th & 20th

Breakfast
8:00am - 12:00

Dog Walking

July 12th
6:00—9:00 am

A Message from the Exalted Ruler

Dear Elks Members,

As we head into the summer months, I want to thank all of you for your continued dedication and support of our Lodge. Our Lodge thrives because of the time, effort, and heart that our members put into every event, project, and gathering.

All-American Lodge Finalist – Big News!

Have you heard the exciting news? **Our Lodge has been selected as a finalist in Division 4 for the All-American Lodge of the Year!**



My wife and I will be attending the **Elks National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri**, from June 29th to July 2nd, where we'll have the opportunity to connect with members from across this great organization, attend seminars, share ideas, and — God willing — bring home the **All-American Lodge of the Year award**.

This is a huge honor that reflects the hard work, dedication, and passion of every member of Coolidge–Florence Lodge #2350. No matter what the outcome, we should all be proud of what we've accomplished together.

Sunday Breakfast – A Big Hit!

We started off the month of June with our **Sunday Breakfast**, and again on Father's Day, and let me tell you—this has been a big hit for our members and for future Elks.

If you are interested in volunteering your time to help with this event going forward, please reach out to the [Bar](#) and [Kitchen Committees](#). Your help makes a difference!

[Dog Walking Program](#) – We Need You!

I would like to ask our membership to come together and help us find ways to make the Dog Walking Program a more successful event for the dogs at the pound—dogs who sadly spend so much of their time in a kennel with no love, no companionship, and very little interaction.

This has been a real struggle to get off the ground, and this program cannot succeed without volunteers willing to step up and form a committee. This effort will directly benefit those dogs who are just looking for a little love, attention, and kindness.

I NEED YOU MORE THAN EVER. Please consider helping with this program. Together, we can make a real difference—not only in the lives of these animals but also by showing our community what Elks truly stand for.

Ongoing Projects & Volunteer Opportunities

- **Hall/Event Space Improvements**

The renovation is nearing completion, but the mural and finishing touches still need helping hands. [Contact us](#) if you'd like to lend your time.

- **Kitchen Volunteers Needed**

Even helping once or twice a month makes a huge difference. Help with cooking, serving, or cleaning during Friday dinners or special events. Contact [Debbie Knutson](#).

- **Landscaping & Maintenance Summer**

Landscaping & Maintenance Summer is here, and keeping our Lodge grounds clean and welcoming is a team effort. If you can help, please reach out.

Membership Growth – Let's Keep It Going!

We are currently **#1 in the East District for membership growth** and **#2 in the state!** This is thanks to all of you for spreading the word about the great work we do at Coolidge–Florence Lodge #2350.

Let's continue the momentum — invite friends, family, and community members to join us. Every new member strengthens our ability to give back.

Final Thoughts

Summer is a time for family, friends, and fellowship—and there's no better place to enjoy it than right here at your Lodge. Whether it's volunteering, attending an event, or just stopping by for a meal, your participation matters.

To everyone, thank you for everything you do for this Lodge. And if you haven't gotten involved yet, now's the time.

Be safe, and I'll see you all when I get back.

Fraternally,



Chad Knutson

Look for Blue Underlined Text – That's a Link!

In this newsletter, you'll notice some words or phrases that are blue and underlined – like this: [Elks Events Calendar](#).

These are **clickable links** that will take you to more information, forms, or event pages. Just click the link to open the page in your web browser!

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Who's Who in Elks Lodge #2350

Exalted Ruler: Chad Knutson

Leading Knight: Mark Blackwell

Loyal Knight: Stephen Hotz

Lecturing Knight: Cameron Gilliam

Treasurer: Susan Hunt

Secretary: Angela Schenk

Esquire: Christine Perry

Inner Guard: Dan Martin

Tiler: Thomas Grubb

Chaplain: George Hickman

Trustees:

Robert Beck (5)

Richard "Moe" Moline III (4)

Bonnie Hundley (3)

Robert Hundley (2)

Debra Neely (1)

(#) Indicates the # of years

[Past Exalted Ruler's & PER Association](#)

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Online Resources



[Facebook](#)

Listing of upcoming events including Bingo, Queen of Hearts, dinners and any other upcoming events.



[Our Lodge - Coolidge-Florence #2350](#)

Access to our calendar of events, membership, lodge history, our approved Grants, etc.



[Arizona Elks Association](#)

Information on our Arizona Elks [Major Projects](#): Children's Research Center, and Youth Camp in Globe, AZ.



[Grand Lodge](#)

Learn more about the Elks.

[Register online](#) for access to our Lodge



Are there any changes we should make to the newsletter? If yes, please take a few minutes to fill out our [online survey](#).

Lodge Hours

1st & 3rd Sunday:	Breakfast 8am - 12:00pm
Monday:	Open from 3pm – 7pm
Tuesday:	Open from 3pm – 7pm
Wednesday:	Open from 3pm – 7pm
Thursday:	Open from 3pm – 7pm Queen of Hearts 6:30pm
Thursday:	Open from 3pm – 7pm
Friday:	Open from 3pm – 8pm Dinner served 5pm – 7:30pm
Saturday:	Open from 1pm – 5pm

The Corral Newsletter

Please submit any articles or suggestions to: dflattum@live.com

Newsletter Committee

[Gail Smith](#) and [Debbie Knutson](#)



MEMBERSHIP



Invite a friend to join the Elks

Office Hours with Angie Schenk, Secretary

Angie will be available for any questions on Tuesday's & Thursday's 2:00 - 4:00.

wELKcome New Members

On Tuesday, June 17th we initiated 6 new members.

Front: Dennis Hilligoss, John Huey

Middle: Richard Marsh, Jeff Burkhammer

Back: Kim Moser, Antoinette Burkhammer



We're excited to have you join our community of fellowship, service, and creativity.

[Register online](#) using your Membership Number to explore volunteer opportunities, events, and Lodge info.

Questions? We're here to help make your Elks experience rewarding and fun!

New Members for Proposal

Maria Kasem, proposed by Richard Lee
William Cunningham, proposed by Tamara Lampsa
Charma Ross, proposed by Teri Warda
Allen Orwick, proposed by Kim Ledesma
Kathi Clark, proposed by Chad Knutson
Patrick Hart, proposed by Roy Mizia
Valerie Skoczylas, proposed by Tricia Hotz

Dennis Hilligoss, proposed by Dennis Bohl
John Huey, proposed by Lee Davis
Henry Givre, proposed by Brian Downing
Amelia Hyde, Transfer Dimit Portsmouth #97
Nicholas Giglio, Certificate of Release #583
Gregory Tidd, Reinstatement

Board Meeting (No initiation in July)

Date: Thursday, July 11th

Time: 5:00

This is the officers' meeting. All members are encouraged to attend and observe the discussions.

Any agenda items can be brought up to a board member in advance, or fill out the [Board Agenda Request Form](#).

Member/Lodge Meeting

Summer Meetings:

We will have only 1 Member/Lodge meeting per month in July and August.

Date: Tuesday, July 15th

Time: 6:30

[Meeting Minutes](#) from June 17th Meeting.



Membership Stats

are available on our web site.

HALL RENOVATION



Following Memorial Day, our hall renovations have continued — most notably with the completion of our mural and the installation of new privacy curtains.

The Mural

It's now time to reveal our artist — [Meet Tom Johnson!](#) Thanks to his incredible talent and creative vision, our mural has truly come to life. Thank you, Tom, for bringing a true Southwest vibe to our Lodge through your artwork. Your creativity has added warmth, character, and a sense of place to our space. Read more about Tom in the Volunteer Spotlight section of the newsletter.



Thank you, **Debbie Knutson**, for continuing to enhance the lodge with your thoughtful design touches and generous donations.



The lounge area has been cleaned up and painted eliminating the cluttered feeling. An **information center** has been added where you can find Elk's news information, brochures, event happenings, and our donation bins.

We've worked on the event room to enhance your dining experience! We wanted to create a friendlier, cozier atmosphere, so we added elegant backdrop curtains to make the space feel cozier, soft lighting for the tables, and fresh table linens. These simple touches make the space more inviting and comfortable—perfect for enjoying meals and conversation with fellow members. **We hope you love the new look as much as we**

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Each month, the Corral Newsletter will feature Elk members who routinely volunteer at Lodge #2350.

We love to highlight those dedicated volunteers as well as to demonstrate how YOU can make a difference, too.

MEET: Tom Johnson



This month, we are proud to honor Tom Johnson as our Volunteer of the Month—a man whose generosity, creativity, and commitment to community are truly inspiring.

Tom hails from Pinos Altos, New Mexico—a picturesque place whose name translates to *Tall Pines*—but his roots go back to Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, where he spent his childhood and graduated from high school. His journey has taken him through Wellesley, Mississippi, where he lived for five years, Massachusetts, and eventually to Arizona, where he moved in 1973 to attend Arizona State University. There, he earned a degree in design and architecture, setting the stage for a lifetime of creative work and community involvement.

Tom and his wife Nancy—married since 2002—made Anthem their part-time home, a peaceful retreat from their busy lives managing The Palace Hotel in Silver City, NM. They are deeply rooted in the community, owning rental homes in Parkside Anthem and previously running a successful design contracting business. Over the years, they've designed bowling centers, theaters, and clubs for a wide range of clients—including over 50 military bases across the U.S. supporting morale, welfare, and recreation programs.

Tom's contributions to the Coolidge Florence Elks over the past five years have been nothing short of remarkable. He's been a helping hand on the cleaning crew, a generous donor to our banquets, and most recently, the talented artist behind the amazing mural in the event room, donating not only his time but also supplies to bring the space to life. His work adds color and character to our lodge, and his giving spirit continues to inspire others.

Tom is proud to be a part of the Elks, and we are equally proud to count him among our members. His story reminds us that a life built on service, creativity, and community is a life well-lived.

Thank you to our featured Volunteers!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



MEET: Tricia Hotz

Originally from San Francisco Bay Area, Tricia made Florence her home seven years ago when she moved to be closer to her parents, who are also active members of the Elks Lodge. She shares her life with her 4 year old loyal Goldendoodle, Finnley, who's always up for a golf cart ride around the neighborhood.



Tricia became a member of the Elks Lodge in February 2025 and quickly got involved, taking on the role of Youth Committee Chair. You'll also see her lending a hand at Bingo nights, helping out with the Queen of Hearts, and waitressing at Lodge dinners. Giving back runs in the family as her parents are also proud Elk members (Stephen and Kathy Hotz).




Professionally, Tricia works as a Regional Service Sales Manager for Varian Medical Systems, where she's spent the last 11 years managing service contracts for life-saving radiation therapy machines used in cancer treatment.

A lifelong learner, Tricia recently graduated summa cum laude with her Bachelors from Arizona State University in December 2024. She's now pursuing her Master's in Business Analytics at LSUS and is on track to graduate next summer.

When she's not working, volunteering, or studying, Tricia enjoys spending time with family, making crafts, building intricate Lego sets, and exploring Arizona with Finnley by her side.

July

Lodge Hours: Monday - Thursday 3:00 - 7:00 pm | Friday: 3:00 - 8:00 pm | Saturday: 1:00 - 5:00 pm
Bar Summer menu is available Monday - Friday and also with lodge activity days on Saturdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Every Monday at 7:30am Cleaning	1 <i>Summer Menu</i>	2 <i>Summer Menu</i>	3 Summer Menu 5:00 Game Night 6:30 Queen of Hearts <i>Queen of Hearts</i>	Happy 4th of July 	5 
6 Breakfast 8:00 - 12:00 	7 No Bar Food!  <i>Margarita Monday</i>	8 Summer Menu Vet Meeting 5:30 	9 Back to School Fundraiser 2-6pm 	10 Summer Menu 5:00 Board Meeting 5:00 Game Night 6:30 Queen of Hearts	11 <i>Summer Menu</i>	12 PCACC Dog Walking 6-9am
13 	14 Burgers & BINGO 	15 Summer Menu 6:30 Lodge Meeting 	16 <i>Summer Menu</i>	17 Summer Menu 5:00 Game Night 5:30 Youth/DA Meeting 6:30 Queen of Hearts	18 Rib Night Served with Cowboy Beans and Coleslaw	19 Summer Menu Seascape Acrylic Painting Craft Day 1-5pm \$15 
20 Breakfast 8:00 - 12:00 	21 Summer Menu  <i>Margarita Monday</i>	22 <i>Summer Menu</i>	23 <i>Summer Menu</i>	24 Summer Menu 5:00 Game Night 6:30 Queen of Heart <i>Queen of Hearts</i>	25 <i>Summer Menu</i>	26 
27 	28 Burgers & BINGO 	29 <i>Summer Menu</i>	30 <i>Summer Menu</i>	31 Summer Menu 5:00 Game Night 6:30 Queen of Heart <i>Queen of Hearts</i>		

Summer Update: Dinner Service Changes

As summer rolls in, many of our members are out of town, which makes it a challenge to gather volunteers and keep attendance up for our Wednesday and Friday dinner nights.

In July, we will be serving **BBQ ribs on Friday 7/18**. Qty's will be limited so get your reservation early. The rest of the month we will be offering our new summer menu Monday - Friday. There are many options on it, including salads. We'll keep an eye on things and reevaluate for the rest of the summer.

If you are interested in helping with cooking or other duties regarding the kitchen, please reach out to Debbie Knutson at dflattum@live.com or call/text 507-703-1728.



Make your
Reservation
[Online](#)

Follow us on Facebook

Follow our Lodge on Facebook to find out about our events, photos of our members, and our community involvement.



Help us grow our audience by

- liking a post, share a post or repost.



BACK TO SCHOOL FUNDRASIER



As the new school year approaches, the Coolidge and Florence Unified School Districts are launching a Back-to-School Fundraiser to support [McKinney-Vento](#)* and migrant children.

The fundraiser aims to help every student start the year prepared and confident. To make this event successful, organizers are seeking 10–15 Elk volunteers to assist on the day of the event:

Date: Wednesday, July 9th
Time: 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

DONATIONS:

All donations can be dropped off at the Lodge or the Sun City Union Center by **Saturday, July 5th.**

VOLUNTEERS:

We will need **10-15 Elk volunteers** to help on the day of the event.

Barbers/Stylists: We are looking for AZ licensed Barbers/Stylists to donate their time for kids haircuts.

TACO BAR LUNCHEON:

A taco bar will be available for children and their parents.

We expect to have 100—130 children

VOLUNTEER SIGNUP



*The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures that students experiencing homelessness have access to the same free and appropriate educational opportunities as other students.

YOUTH & DRUG AWARENESS



Join the Elks Youth & Drug Awareness Committee!

Help support the future of our community by getting involved with our Youth and Drug Awareness efforts.

We're looking for passionate, creative individuals who want to make a difference. Whether you have new ideas, a passion for working with youth, or just a willingness to lend a hand — we'd love your help!



Together, we can educate, support, and inspire the next generation.

Interested in joining? Reach out today or attend our next meeting!

Contact: [Tricia Hotz](#) (925) 550-4850 or [Chrisine Perry](#) (978) 430-7610

Committee Meeting - National Friendship Day (8/3/2025) Event

Date: Thursday, 7/17/2025

Time: 5:30 pm

Agenda: 8/3/2025 National Friendship Day Event

Event Details:

Time: 1:00 pm—3:00 pm

Help Needed: We are looking for volunteers, help with planning, and supplies.

Cardmaking and drawing station: Kids will make cards or artwork for the Veteran's Hospital (in August).

Donations Needed: Embroidery Floss



BINGO & QUEEN OF HEARTS



Burger Baskets: \$12
Includes cheeseburger, chips, and a drink
(well, domestic beer, or soda)

JULY 14TH & 28TH

NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINKS ALLOWED

Ticket Sales begins at 4:00 pm
Calling begins at 5:30 pm

\$10 – 3 cards for 10 Games

Avg payout has been \$110
Maximum payout of \$200

\$5 – one card for final Black Out Bingo

Avg payout has been \$850
Maximum payout of \$1,000

70% Divided out on winnings; 30% to the Lodge
Class B Bingo License prohibits any game payout of over \$1,000,
and total payout for the night of \$3,000



\$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20
Queen of Hearts—60% of the Pot
Jokers—\$200
Face Cards or Aces—\$100
All Other Cards—\$30

- To be eligible to play you must be a current card-carrying member, spouse, or widow in good standing with any Elks Lodge.
- Ticket sales end at 6:00 pm on Thursday's drawing. At 6:30 pm a ticket will be drawn from the tickets purchased for that week.
- You will have from 6:30 pm until 7:00 pm to present your matching ticket stub for that Thursday evenings drawing to claim the 100% prize value for the card drawn.
- After 7:00 pm, that ticket will be posted in the position on the board and will be available for a 50% prize payout until the following Thursday.
- If unclaimed, that tickets prize value will be rolled into the current jackpot at its 100% value.

June Winners:

6/5/2025

6/12/2025

6/19/2025

6/26/2025

No Drawing
Private Event



Dan Martin
Jack: \$200



Christine Perry
Ace: \$100



Chad Knutson
King: \$100

**MAKE YOUR
RESERVATION**

WEEKEND ENTERTAINMENT

All Weekend Events are Open to the Public

A acrylic Painting Landscapes or Seascapes

Date: Saturday, July 19th

Time: 1:00 pm

Cost: \$15 per person (includes all supplies)

We will be painting on 2" x 6" tiles



Artist: Lee Howard

Questions? Contact [Gail Smith](#) 860-424-6605

Join us for **BUNCO** starting in August and will be held the 1st Saturday of every month.

Date: Saturday, August 2nd (the first Saturday of the month)

Time: 1:00 pm

Cost: \$10 per person (\$5 will go to prizes & \$5 to the lodge the building fund)

In order to play, we will need 12 people. **Questions?** Contact [Sue Hickman](#)



Youth Committee National Friendship Day

Make Friendship Bracelets & Make Cards & Art for Veterans

Date: Saturday, August 3rd

Time: 1:00 pm—3:00 pm

RSVP: Elks2350Youth@gmail.com



Trivia with the "Wasband & Wife" Team

Ready to challenge your brain and have a blast? Trivia returns — come for the fun, stay for the prizes and bragging rights!

Dates: August 23rd — October 18th — November 15th

Cost: \$5 per person

Teams: Up to 8 people

Check In: 1:00 - 1:30 pm

Trivia Begins: 1:30 pm

Wrap-Up by: 3:30 pm

Dates may change — be sure to check your email and Facebook for the latest updates.

Join the Fun!





DIAMONDBACKS VS ROCKIES

[Order your Tickets](#)

>>>>> ARIZONA ELKS ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO <<<<<

★ ★

BASEBALL GAME


 

★★★★ DIAMONDBACKS ★★★★★ ROCKIES

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10TH

1.10 PM AT CHASE FIELD

TICKETS ARE DISCOUNTED IN SECTION 104 OR SECTION 111, AND THE DIAMONDBACKS WILL GIVE BACK \$5 FROM EACH TICKET PURCHASED TO ARIZONA ELKS MAJOR PROJECTS.



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP

PUPPY LOVE

Please make sure to sign in at the shelter. Include “Elks” to the left of your name. If possible, please return to where we pick up the dogs at 7:00 am for a group photo. NOTE: Only 1 dog can be in the photo.



Next Organized Walk: Saturday, 7/12/2025 6:00 - 9:00am

Address: 1150 S. 11 Mile Corner, Casa Grande



Donations: You can drop off any pet accessories (leashes, wire crates, pet travel carriers, etc.), pet food and treats, bedding and new pet toys at our lodge or drop them off at the shelter.

June “Paw-sitive” Impact at the Shelter



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made generous donations this past June —your kindness has helped provide food, medical care, and cozy shelter to our 4-legged residents.

But our furry friends still need your help!

Every donation, big or small, brings us one step closer to wagging tails and happy homes. Let’s keep the momentum going—your support means the world to them.

Are you interested in:

- **Volunteering?** Join us on Saturday, 7/12/2025
- ***Fostering?** Check out their [foster program](#).
- **Donation Options:**
 - Order and ship from [Amazon](#).
 - [Monetary Donations](#) Online
 - Dog food, treats, towels, collars, leashes, puppy pads, wire crates, pet travel carriers, dog houses, etc. You can drop off donations in the box next to the front door at the Lodge or bring them to the shelter.



Field Trips are also an Option

Are you not looking for long-term commitments? The PCACC Field trip program may be for you! Citizens are allowed to sign out dogs for field trips to give them a quick break from the shelter, such as going out to grab a puppuccino, a stroll in a local park, an adventurous hike, or just hanging out in a home for a day!



Click on the image to read the full article.

FLAG DAY CELEBRATION

FLAG DAY CELEBRATION

On Friday, June 13, we hosted our annual Flag Day Ceremony, an event steeped in tradition and patriotism. Approximately 50 members and guests gathered to honor the American flag and the values it represents.

The evening began with a moving ceremony led by the Lodge, with all officers' present to represent the unity and spirit of Elkdom. In a special moment of recognition, **Mayor Keith Eaton and Mo Maldonado presented an official proclamation recognizing June 14, 2025, as Flag Day in the City of Coolidge.** Their words highlighted the importance of community service, and remembering the history behind our national symbol.



Mo Maldonado, Government Relations Chair, Chad Knutson, Exalted Ruler, Keith Eaton, Florence AZ Mayor.

Following the ceremony, members and guests enjoyed a barbecue dinner and music, turning the solemn remembrance into a lively and joyful celebration. The event was a wonderful reminder of the Elks' ongoing commitment to patriotism, fellowship, and service.

A sincere thank-you goes out to all who attended, helped organize, and participated in this meaningful event. Your presence and support help keep our traditions strong and our Lodge vibrant.



Want to know more about how Flag Day began?



Be sure to check out the article "[Bernard Cigrand and the History of Flag Day](#)" published Elks Magazine. It highlights the life and passion of Bernard Cigrand—the man often credited as the "Father of Flag Day." A great read for this patriotic season!



NAME TAGS



Be recognized, Be remembered,
Be proud
Get your official Elks Lodge
Name Tag Today

Cost: \$5 each



ORDER NOW

We will have a metal plate where you can keep your name tag at the Lodge, so you will have it when you come in and you can leave it when you leave.

- Allow 1 week for processing.
- You will be notified when your name tag is ready.
- Please pay the bartender upon receipt.

Thank you Kathy Hotz for the idea and making it happen!



2 Derre Filipkowski	8 Elvin Crewell	19 Tamara Lampsa	26 Robert Knapp
2 Robert Francis	8 Mark Gomes	20 Edmund Halvorson	27 Ronald Becker
2 Todd Hurst	9 Steven Baldwin	21 Gwendolyn Beck	27 Rick Nichi
3 Gary Hooper	10 Sharon Reid	21 Robert Mutchler	28 John Burdette
3 David White	11 Jeffrey Lain	21 Harold Stadshaug	28 Troy Vredenburg
4 Glenn Bills	12 Ric Cary	22 Lin McMillen	29 Daniel Martin
4 Gary Harpel	12 Linda Jones	22 Diana Zissos	30 Loren Balthazor
4 Arthur Ridenhour	12 Stephanie Jordan	23 Chris Knutsen	30 James Garrett
5 Marc Brower	14 Karen Platt	23 Brandy Myers	31 Thomas Johnson
5 Christine Jackson	14 David Rowe	24 Connie Case	31 Kalau Reeves
6 Andrew Pronko	17 Dennis Kirby	24 Jack Dale	31 Dwight Thorson
7 Dwight Sabrosky	18 Kevin Herman	24 Roy Kubal	31 Debra Vasquez



Lodge of Sorrow:

If you know an Elk's member who has passed away, please let us know by sending an email to:

BPOE2350@hotmail.com.

Thank you Elks #2350 Business Sponsors for your support!

If you wish to place an ad, contact Lodge Secretary [Angie](#)



JIM GARRETT
SALES: (877) 272-6295

