



Coolidge-Florence Elks Lodge #2350

The Corral Newsletter: November, 2025

November 8th
5:00 pm
Veterans
Banquet

November 14th
5:00 pm
ENF/AEMP
Fundraiser

December 20th
Dave's Kids

Elks Care
Elks Share

A Message from the Exalted Ruler

Hello Fellow Members,

As we enter November, I want to take a moment to reflect on the accomplishments and events of October. It was a busy month, filled with opportunities to recognize service, honor dedication, and enjoy fellowship at our Lodge.



First Responders Recognition Event

On October 10th, our Lodge hosted a successful **First Responders Recognition Event**, honoring local firefighters, police officers, and other first responders. We were proud to welcome **Arizona Elks Association State President Larry Carver and his wife Michelle**, who joined us in recognizing and presenting awards to these dedicated men and women who serve our communities.

A special highlight of the evening was the **K9 demonstration**, which was a big hit with the crowd and showcased the amazing skills of the service dog.

I would like to extend a special thank you to **Tricia Hotz and Cameron Gilliam** for their hard work and dedication in helping organize and manage this event. Your efforts were crucial to its success.

The evening was a true celebration of commitment and sacrifice, and I want to thank everyone who helped make it a success. Your support and participation continue to reflect the pride we have in our Lodge and community.

October Blood Drive

On **October 14th**, our Lodge hosted a successful blood drive, led by **Lisa Enfield**. We want to thank everyone who participated and helped make this event a success. Here are the results:

- **Number of Donors:** 22
- **Units Collected:** 19
- **Power Red Procedures:** 2
- **First Time Donors:** 6

Every donation helps save lives and demonstrates the generosity of our Lodge members. Thank you to all who gave the gift of life!

Veterans Banquet



Our **Veterans Banquet** will be on **November 8th**. We encourage all members to register early so we can plan accordingly. All funds raised at this event go directly into the Veterans Fund, which provides support to veterans in our local communities.

This is an important event where we celebrate and support our local veterans. There will also be **raffles and activities**, and your participation makes a real difference.

For any questions, please contact Veterans Chair, [Cameron Gilliam](#).

ENF Month – October

October is ENF Month, a chance for all of Elksdom to show their support of the [Elks National Foundation](#) and its programs. The Foundation helps fund scholarships, veterans' programs, youth activities, and community projects across the country.

Your contributions, no matter the size, make a real difference. Thank you to all members who supported ENF this past month—your generosity helps Elks make a lasting impact in our communities.

We also want to highlight the **Purple Piggy Banks**, which have been roaming around the Lodge for members to take home and fill with spare change. A special thank you to **Bill & Cathy Rapoza** for implementing this initiative in our Lodge!



ENF Fundraiser: Mark your calendars: **November 14th** will be a fundraising event for ENF — please join us in supporting this important cause.

Join the [Fidelity Club](#) today and make a recurring donation to support ENF programs throughout the year. Every contribution helps strengthen our Lodge and communities!

Fall Convention & Membership Growth

I had the opportunity to attend the **Fall Convention in Tempe, Arizona**, where I collaborated with other state representatives and shared ideas to strengthen our Lodges. During the convention, our Lodge was recognized with an **award for the highest percentage membership gain in the East District**, achieving an 18.3% increase—a fantastic accomplishment!

On October 28th, we welcomed another group of **new members** into our Lodge, with even more in the waiting. This is a tremendous achievement for Coolidge–Florence #2350 and demonstrates the excitement and growth within our Lodge.

However, with growth comes a challenge. Many Lodges across the country, including ours, rely on members **stepping up and helping**—whether in the kitchen, bar, events, or maintenance. Our current volunteers are doing an incredible job, but they need relief and support. We encourage all members to find ways to get involved and help keep our Lodge strong and vibrant.

Lodge Meetings & BOD Updates

Lodge meetings continue on the **1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month**, with Board of Directors meetings on the **2nd Thursday**. Your involvement in these meetings, whether through attendance or participation, is essential to the health and growth of our Lodge. Thank you for your continued dedication.

Final Thoughts

November is a month of gratitude and reflection. I encourage all members to stay **involved, support our events, and thank one another** for the efforts that keep our Lodge vibrant. Together, we continue to make Coolidge–Florence #2350 a place of service, fellowship, and pride.

Fraternally,



Chad Knutson

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](#)

Lodge Hours

1st & 3rd Sunday:	Breakfast 8am - 12:00pm
2nd & 4th Sunday:	Football 10am—6pm
Monday:	Open from 3pm – 8pm
Tuesday:	Open from 3pm – 8pm
Wednesday:	Open from 3pm – 8pm
Thursday:	Open from 3pm – 8pm Queen of Hearts 6:30pm
Friday:	Open from 3pm – 9pm
Saturday:	Open from 1pm – 5pm

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



Volunteers: Don't forget to track your hours. You can click on this image to post the hours.

Gratitude in Action! Learn more about our [Volunteer Appreciation Program](#).

The Corral Newsletter Committee

Please submit any articles or suggestions to the Newsletter Committee: [Gail Smith](#) and [Debbie Knutson](#)

Coolidge-Florence Elks Lodge #2350

P.O. Box 1033, Florence, AZ 85132

Phone: 520-723-3832

EXTRA! EXTRA! HELP WANTED!

Your Lodge Needs YOU — Step Up and Make a Difference

Event Coordinator

We're looking for an organized, enthusiastic, and community-minded individual to serve as the **Golf Tournament Chairperson** for our annual Bullets and Balls Children's fundraising event.

This position is ideal for someone who enjoys event planning, teamwork, and golf—or simply loves bringing people together for a great cause!

Key Responsibilities:

- Determine the golf game format (e.g., 2-Man Scramble).
- Recruit and coordinate 12–15 volunteers for tee box games, registration desk, and contest stations.
- Create and distribute entry packets (flyer, entry form, donation request letter, sponsorship registration form).
- Develop a tracking spreadsheet for registered teams by division (Men's, Women's, Couples, Seniors).
- Plan and manage contests including Putting, Chipping, Closest to the Pin, Long Drive, Longest Putt, Hole-in-One, and vendor holes (e.g., Dixon Golf).
- Prepare hole sponsor signage and ensure setup on tournament day.
- Solicit and organize silent auction donations for the awards banquet.
- Determine and purchase prizes and trophies for contest winners and top teams (1st–3rd place in each division).
- Assist in coordinating the evenings dinner banquet.

Please Contact: Robert C. Hundley, 602-616-2379

Want to know when new roles open up?
Click here to visit our [Volunteer Opportunities page](#).

Bartender

We're looking for friendly, dependable individuals (or husband-and-wife teams!) to join our bar staff. No experience necessary — we'll provide on-the-job training!

Requirements:

Must be at least 19 yrs old and available to work scheduled bar hours:

Mon–Thu: 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Fri: 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM | **Sat:** 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

- Must complete all required State of Arizona certifications.
- Positive attitude and great customer service skills are a must!

If you're reliable, outgoing, and ready to be part of a fun, community-focused team, we'd love to hear from you!

Please Contact: Keith Bollman, 320-583-9593

Marketing Specialist

We are seeking a Marketing Specialist to help promote our lodge events, community programs, and charitable initiatives. This role is perfect for someone creative, organized, and passionate about connecting people through engaging communication and storytelling.

Key Responsibilities

- Develop and post engaging content on social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.).
- Design flyers, posters, and digital graphics for upcoming events.
- Coordinate with lodge officers and event chairs to promote activities and fundraisers.
- Maintain an updated calendar of events and announcements.
- Write short articles, newsletters, or press releases highlighting community involvement.
- Take or collect photos from lodge events for promotional use.

Please Contact: Debbie Knutson,, 507-703-1728

November						
Lodge Hours: Monday - Thursday 3:00 - 7:00 pm Friday: 3:00 - 8:00 pm Saturday: 1:00 - 5:00 pm Sundays 8-Noon and 10-6:00 pm						
\$4 Daily Drink Specials	Margarita Monday	Apple Crown Sprite Splash of Cranberry	Tito's Cranberry Splash of Sprite	White Russian (Vodka, Kahlua, and Cream)	Malibu Rum Pineapple	Greyhound (Absolute Vodka and Grapefruit)
	Cleaning Every Monday at 7:30		Dinner Night	Queen of Hearts 6:30pm	Dinner Night	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Cleaning Every Monday at 7:30					1 Bunco 1:00: Food & Drinks 2:00: Games Start Menu Available
2 Breakfast 8:00am - 12:00pm	3	4 Lodge Meeting 6:30  Menu Available	5 Mexican Food Night & Karaoke 	6 QOH 6:30pm Menu Available	7 2 pc Fish & Chips, Coleslaw	8 PCACC Dog Walking 7-10:00am Veterans Banquet Food - Raffles 5-8:00pm
9 Football Sunday 10:00am - 6:00pm  Sunday Bar Menu	10 Burgers 4:00 BINGO 5:30 	11 Veterans Meeting is Cancelled	12 Chicken Parmigiana Spaghetti	13 Board Meeting 5:00pm  QOH 6:30pm Menu Available	14 Country Night AEMP Fundraiser Behind the BBQ Food - Raffles Music JD Dance Band	15 Craft Fair 9-1:00pm Food, Beverages, Shopping, Fun
16 Breakfast 8:00am - 12:00pm	17	18 Lodge Meeting 6:30  Menu Available	19 Chicken Fried Steak 	20 QOH 6:30pm Menu Available	21 Meatloaf	22
23 Girlscout Vet Dinner	24 Burgers 4:00 BINGO 5:30 	25	26 Baked Ziti	27 CLOSED 	28 CLOSED 	29 CPR & AED Program 9 - 10am 
30 Football Sunday 10:00am - 6:00pm Sunday Bar Menu						

Celebrate, Support & Share: Upcoming Elks Fundraisers You'll Love



Don't wait—Make your [Reservations](#)



Event		Details
<u>Veterans Banquet</u> November 8, 2025 5:00 \$20 per person		Join us as we recognize and celebrate the service of our veterans with a heartfelt evening of gratitude, camaraderie, and remembrance. Your attendance helps us continue supporting those who serve our country with pride. Serving Smoked Chicken Leg Quarters or Smoked Pork with coleslaw, beans and a roll. Event Details
Your Behind BBQ & ENF Fundraiser On the Patio November 14, 2025 5:00 \$20 per person		Enjoy a mouthwatering BBQ dinner catered by Your Behind Barbeque, live music, and dancing on the Patio Please drop off any Raffle Prizes as soon as possible. All proceeds benefit the Elks National Foundation and Arizona Elks Major Projects. Deadline to reserve: November 11 — spots fill fast!

FUNDRAISERS

VETERANS FUNDRAISER

If you have a photo of a loved one who has served—whether in uniform or simply enjoying life—we'd be honored to include it in our celebration.

Please send your photos to [Angie Schenk](#) along with their name, years served and branch or role.



Reservation for the
Veterans Banquet



PARTY ON THE PATIO! DETAILS

Saddle up for a night of dinner, dancing, and some amazing raffles — all to support some amazing causes!

Proceeds Benefit:

- AEMP (Arizona Elks Major Projects)
- Steele Children's Research Center
- Jack C. Warter Youth Camp

ENF (Elks National Foundation) — supporting scholarships, veterans, youth programs, and community grants to local lodges.

Live Music: JD Dance Band

Dinner by: Your Behind BBQ — just \$20

Choice of Brisket, Pork, or Turkey

Served with Beans, Potato Salad & Slider Buns

Members grab your boots, bring your friends, and join us for a rootin'-tootin' good time — all for a great cause!

Party on the Patio!

November 14th 5:00 – 8:00 PM

\$20 per plate for AEMP/ENF Fundraiser

Reservations are required. Include menu selection when making reservations.

JD Dance Band

Catered by: Your Behind BBQ:

Brisket, Pork or Turkey Sliders with Beans and Potato salad

- Basket Raffles
- Dancing
- 50/50 Raffle



NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES



NOVEMBER 10TH & 24TH

Burger Baskets: \$12

Includes cheeseburger, chips, and a drink
(well, domestic beer, or soda)

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.



**Elks
Craft Fair**
Saturday, 11/15/2025
9 am - 1 pm



Saturday, November 15, 2025

9:00 am — 1:00 pm

**Food and Beverages will be available
to purchase.**



QUEEN OF HEARTS THURSDAYS!

\$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20

Queen of Hearts—60% of the Pot

Jokers—\$200

Face Cards or Aces—\$100

Tickets:

- Sales end at 600 PM
- Drawing at 6:30 PM

Eligibility: Current card-carrying member, spouse, or widow with a good standing with any Elks Lodge.
See all [rules](#).

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 1ST**



**1:00PM
FOOD & DRINK**

**2:00PM
GAMES BEGIN**

Join us on the **1st Saturday** of the month. Join us for an afternoon of good times, great people and rolling fun.

TRIVIA: The next Trivia will be on Saturday, December 6th.

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

DOG WALKING

15 minutes of your time = a tail wag that lasts all day!



Next Organized Walk: Saturday, 11/8/2025 7:00 - 10:00am

Address: 1150 S. 11 Mile Corner, Casa Grande



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.

Donations can be dropped 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.

Thank you to everyone that have provided donations for the shelter.

Come walk a shelter dog — they need your love, and you just might find your new best friend.

- 🐾 No commitment, just connection.
- 🐾 Every pawprint you help make brings a dog closer to adoption.
- 🐾 Stop by the shelter — your walking buddy is waiting!



Hands-Only Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and 911 Awareness Program

Date: November 29, 2025

Time: 9:00am—10:00pm

This free program is associated with a donated AED and is open to Elk Members and their guests.

You will learn:

- How to perform hands-only (no mouth-to-mouth) CPR
- How to use an AED in general and specifically the AED being placed in the Lodge
- Differences, if any, when calling 911 using landlines vs cell phones
- See additional [details](#) for this program.

[Registration:](#) We ask that attendees register for the program.



MOST VALUABLE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP (MVS)

FUTURE LEADERS WANTED:

\$30,000 SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE TO THE
TOP 20 SCHOLARS



2026 Application Closes on 11/12/2025 at 11:59pm Pacific Time

ELIGIBILITY

- Current high school seniors, or the equivalent, who are citizens of the United States are eligible to apply.
- Applicants **do not** need to be related to a member of the Elks.
- High school graduates are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants must be citizens of the United States on the date their applications are submitted; permanent legal resident status does not qualify.
- Scholarships are available only to students who enroll in four-year undergraduate degree programs at accredited U.S. American colleges or universities.

AWARDS

- The Elks National Foundation will award 500 four-year scholarships to the highest-rated applicants in the 2026 competition.
- Male and female students compete separately.
- Ranging from \$1,000 per year to \$7,500 per year, Most Valuable Student scholarships are for students pursuing a four-year degree, on a full-time basis (minimum of 12 semester hours), in a U.S. college or university. All scholarships are in the form of certificates of award conditional upon the full-time enrollment of the winner in an accredited U.S. college or university.

Every Top 20 MVS scholar will receive a \$30,000 scholarship and an invitation to the [MVS Leadership weekend](#) in Chicago, April 30—May 3, 2026

[ADDITIONAL INFORMATION](#)

[FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS](#)

[APPLY NOW](#)



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. **(Except Meeting Nights)**
Please note: Angie does have a full time job. There may be conflicts during the hours indicated.

Member/Lodge Meetings

October Meetings:

Tuesday, November 4th & November 18th

Time: 6:30

[Meeting Minutes](#) from the October Meeting.

Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, November 13th

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](#).

New Members for Proposal

Jill Feher, proposed by Cameron Gilliam
Catherine Bartlett, proposed by Lizabeth Thalacker
Geraldine Carreon, proposed by Robert Beck
Kim Vogel, proposed by Christine Perry
William Castona, proposed by Jerry Ingram #2429

Charmaine Wahlstrom, proposed by Kathy Demarino
Kayla Piel, proposed by Dawn Winsor
Levi Atwell, proposed by Chad Knutson
James Bencina, proposed by Chris Knutsen
Matthew Brower, Reinstatement

William Nye, Transfer Dimit Chandler #2429
Gary Schraufnagel, Certificate of Release
Duluth #133
Tim Butterworth, Transfer Dimit Petaluma #901

Welcome to our October New Members



Welcome to our new members that were initiated on Tuesday, October 28th.

Jill Feher, William Castona, Norman "Wes" McQueen, Amber Atwell, Charmaine Wahlstrom, James "Anthony" Bencina, Geraldine Carreon



[Membership Stats](#)

are available on our web site.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



Each month, the Corral Newsletter will feature our Volunteer of the Month. The committee chairs make their recommendations and the Board of Directors vote on our Volunteer of the Month. At our 2nd Member Meeting of the month, the volunteer is recognized for their contributions.

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

MEET: **Debbie Knutson**



This month, we are proud to recognize **Debbie Knutson** as our Volunteer of the Month for her outstanding dedication and countless contributions to the Coolidge-Florence Elks Lodge #2350!

Originally from Lewiston, Minnesota, Debbie and her husband Chad moved to Coolidge, Arizona five years ago. After a 34-year career with Fastenal in Winona, MN, Debbie retired in 2020 — but anyone who knows her knows she hasn't slowed down since! Earlier this year, she took on the role of Kitchen Manager at our lodge, and since April 2025 she has helped revitalize kitchen operations, menu planning, and event meals with energy and enthusiasm.

Debbie has been part of our Elks family since 2022 (first as a supportive spouse and now as a proud member since 2024). She currently serves on the Kitchen Committee, Public Relations Committee, and Memorial Day Committee, and has also served as State Major Projects Subcommittee AEMP Chair, Public Relations Chair.

Whether she's serving cocktails, organizing dinner volunteers, cleaning, painting, or jumping in wherever help is needed, Debbie leads by example with a positive attitude and genuine care for others. She's also been instrumental in recruiting a few new members and strengthening our community spirit.

When she's not at the lodge, Debbie enjoys spending time with her dog Maxx and family — including her four daughters, two stepdaughters, and seven grandchildren — who live in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Colorado.

Debbie says what she enjoys most about being part of the Elks is “helping to make a difference in the lodge and meeting a great group of friends along the way.”

Please join us in congratulating **Debbie Knutson**, our **Volunteer of the Month**, and thanking her for her dedication, leadership, and heart. We're lucky to have her as part of our Elks family!



VETERANS CORNER

GIVING BACK TO THOSE WHO SERVE



Elks Visit to Steele Children's Research Center

Members of the Coolidge-Florence Elks Lodge recently visited the Steele Children's Research Center in Tucson to learn more about the incredible work being done to improve children's health across Arizona. The visit offered an inside look at the groundbreaking research supported by Arizona Elks Major Projects (AEMP), from pediatric cancer to autoimmune disorders and other childhood diseases.

During the tour, lodge members met with staff and researchers who shared how Elks' contributions directly support life-changing advancements in medical care and research. It was an inspiring reminder of how our collective efforts as Elks help make a real difference in the lives of children and families throughout our state.

The night was filled with appreciation, fellowship, and gratitude as Elks members, families, and community guests came together to say "thank you" to those who serve.

Honoring Our Local Heroes: First Responders Banquet



The Coolidge-Florence Elks Lodge hosted its annual First Responders Banquet on **October 10, 2025**, to recognize the men and women who dedicate their lives to protecting our communities. The evening began with an exciting K9 demonstration by Officer Marcos Sandoval and his partner Onix from the Coolidge Police Department, followed by a dinner and awards presentation honoring outstanding members of local law enforcement, fire, and emergency services.

Among those recognized were Firefighter **Taylor Price of the Florence Fire Department** and several other first responders whose dedication and service exemplify courage and commitment. The lodge was also honored to welcome **Arizona Elks State President Larry Carver and his wife Michelle**, who joined in celebrating our community's heroes.



November's Veterans Meeting is Cancelled.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 9th.



1 Pierce Hoover	9 John Calvin	17 Patricia Cargola	24 Lisa Katon
2 John Woods	9 Bruce Guffey	18 Robert Person	25 Robert Lafferty
3 Louis Continelli	9 Tyler Hall	18 Terry Tewell	25 Mark Tollefson
3 Darrell Warren	11 Boyd Johnson	18 Scott Warda	26 John McClure
4 Robert Amma	11 Willis Wade	19 Margaret LaVallee	27 James McBroom
4 Jacob Roberts	11 James Westfall	21 Robert Arnold	27 John Tellesbo
5 Valerie Skoczylas	12 Roger Biede	21 Robert Cochran	28 Lawrence Haase
6 Victoria Kaas	12 Oscar Robles	21 Jerry Kenyon	28 Jay Kerl
7 David Parrish	13 Becky Trotter	21 Arthur Smith	28 Roy Mizia
8 Edward Brown	14 Thomas Belden	23 Lori McChesney	29 Cheryl Haugan
8 Jon Thompson	15 Michael Arter	24 Steve Anderson	29 James Thomas
9 Melissa Burr	16 Roger Johnson	24 Cynthia Gautreau	



Lodge of Sorrow:

Casey Freeman Batchelor 8/13/1978 - 9/1/2025

Daughter of member Dolores Freeman

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 [Angela Schenk](#)



JIM GARRETT

SALES: (877) 272-6295

