



## Deep Creek Elks #2763 The Bugle

April 2026

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### From Our Exalted Ruler

Members,

As we begin our new Elks year, I want to say I am deeply honored and truly grateful for the trust you have placed in me to serve as your Exalted Ruler. I am excited to work with a great team of officers, trustees, committees and our partnership with the Ladies of Elks.



First, I want to recognize Scott. He stepped into leadership during a time of real challenges — challenges that could have discouraged any organization. Instead of backing down, he leaned in with determination, resilience, and commitment. He didn't just meet those challenges...he far exceeded expectations. Because of his leadership, our Lodge is stronger today. We owe him our thanks and our respect.

I know I have big shoes to fill.

But I also know something else — this lodge has something incredibly powerful behind it.

**You.**

This year, my focus is simple and clear:

**It's all about you, the members.**

Without you, we don't exist.

**You** are the one who donates your time.

**You** are the one who shares your talents.

**You** are the one who gives so generously — not just financially, but with your energy, your compassion, and your heart.

**You** volunteer at events.

**You** show up for fundraisers.

**You** support our veterans.

**You** help children.

**You** comfort families.

**You** strengthen this community.

This year, I want every member to feel appreciated.

I want every member to feel heard.

I want every member to feel proud.

- Proud of this Lodge.
- Proud of what we stand for.
- Proud to wear the Elk emblem.

I want each of you to walk out into the community as ambassadors of the Elks — confident in who we are and excited to share what we do.

If we focus on our members — if we support one another, encourage participation, welcome new faces warmly, and recognize those who quietly serve — everything else will fall into place.

My commitment to you is this:

- I will lead with integrity.
- I will listen.
- I will respect the traditions that brought us here while remaining open to ideas that move us forward.

In future editions of the Bugle, we will have a link for you to share your thoughts and ideas to better strengthen our Lodge.

Together, we will continue building a Lodge that reflects charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity — not just in words, but in action.

So let's make this a year of unity.

A year of pride.

A year where every member knows they matter.

Because as I mentioned before, without you — we don't exist.

Thank you for your confidence.

Thank you for your dedication.

And most of all, thank you for being the heart of this Lodge.

Let's make it a great year — together.

Jed

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## Ladies of the Elks Check In

Greetings.

My name is Pamela Setchell and I am honored to have been elected President of Deep Creek Elks #2763 Ladies of Elks for the upcoming year.

First, a big thank you to Sue Crady for her leadership this past year. Sue is a wealth of knowledge at both the District and State FLOE levels.

Second, I'd like to introduce the 2026 Ladies of Elks Board of Directors: Karen Moerlein, Vice President; Mary Sugrue, Secretary; Lori DiMeo, Treasurer;



Beverly Sommers, Chaplin; Cheryl Usowicz, Inner Guard; and Sandy Yerger, Parliamentarian. I'd also like to congratulate the incoming Lodge officers and look forward to working with them.

The Ladies have several projects in the works, namely raising funds for Autism and as always raising funds for Charlotte Technical College during our weekly Show Me The Money event and Children's Therapy Services.

As a reminder, our Ladies of Elks meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Veterans Room. All lady Elks and spouses of Elks are invited to attend.

Thank you to all the Ladies who volunteer at the Lodge, whether it is as a hostess, cashier, selling 50/50 tickets, volunteering in the kitchen, or decorating the Lodge.

Fraternally,  
Pam

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## House Committee Report To Members

Members All,

We begin a new Lodge year with a mix of returning members and newly appointed volunteers. We look forward to working together to support the day-to-day operations of the Lodge and to enhance the experience for all members and guests.



The House Committee plays an important role in overseeing the social and hospitality aspects of our Lodge. Our focus this year will be to continue providing a welcoming environment where members can gather, enjoy good company, and take part in the activities that make our Lodge special.

Members can look forward to a continued schedule of entertainment and social events designed to bring people together and create opportunities for fun and fellowship. We will also work closely with our kitchen staff and volunteers to ensure the Lodge continues to offer quality meals and food service for our members and guests. You may have already noticed, you are receiving an email on the first day of the month which is our Bugle Newsletter that includes our monthly calendar and committee reports.

You are also receiving a weekly reminder of your Lodge activities and entertainment. Finally, for those on FaceBook, all of the Lodge activities are posted there.

In addition, the House Committee will oversee the operation of our bar, making sure it is well managed, welcoming, and operated responsibly. Our goal is to maintain a comfortable and enjoyable atmosphere where members can relax and spend time with friends.

Most importantly, we want the Lodge to be a place where members feel proud to bring guests and where everyone feels welcome. By working together with Lodge leadership, the LoE, committees, volunteers, and our membership, we hope to continue making the Lodge a vibrant and enjoyable place to spend time.

We encourage members to share ideas for events, activities, and improvements. Your participation and feedback help make our Lodge stronger and ensure we continue to provide the kind of environment that keeps members engaged and involved.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to a fun and successful year ahead.

Respectfully,

Your House Committee

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## Board Of Directors Report To Membership



Dear Members,

As we begin a new Lodge year, the Board of Directors is pleased to welcome both returning and newly elected members who have stepped forward to serve our Lodge and its membership.

We appreciate the trust you have placed in us and are committed to working diligently to strengthen our Lodge and the programs that make it such an important part of our community.

The start of a new year provides an opportunity to reflect on our purpose and to set a clear path forward.

In the coming months, the Board will be focused on establishing priorities and developing measurable goals and objectives that support the continued success and sustainability of the Lodge.

One of our first responsibilities will be developing a new annual budget. This process will include careful review of our current financial position, evaluation of operating costs, and identification of opportunities to improve financial stability. Our goal is to ensure that the Lodge operates responsibly while continuing to provide meaningful programs, activities, and services for our members.

The Board will also be reviewing and planning for building and maintenance projects. Maintaining our facility is essential to preserving a welcoming and safe environment for members, guests, and community events. We will be evaluating current needs, prioritizing repairs and improvements, and developing a long-term approach to facility upkeep.

Equally important is our continued commitment to the charitable mission that defines our organization. The Lodge has a proud tradition of supporting charitable programs and community initiatives. This year we will work to strengthen our fundraising efforts, increase member engagement in charitable activities, and ensure that we continue to make a positive impact through the organizations and causes we support.

Transparency and communication with our membership will remain a priority. As goals, budgets, and projects are finalized, we will provide updates and opportunities for members to stay informed and involved. The success of our Lodge depends on the participation, ideas, and support of our members.

We look forward to a productive and positive year ahead and encourage all members to take part in the activities, events, and charitable efforts that make our Lodge strong.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Lodge.

Respectfully,  
Board of Directors

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## From the Secretary's Desk

Hello Members All,

As the incoming Secretary, I thought I would introduce myself to those of you whom I have not yet met.

I have been a member of this Lodge for 7 years and have been elected as an officer for the last 3. I am also the SSW District Chairperson for the FSEA Membership Committee and State Vice-Chairman for the Army of Hope Fundraising Committee.



For the last 18 months, within the Lodge, I have been working very closely with our previous Secretary, Stephanie Helgeland. With her expert, and very patient guidance, I hope to continue to provide the same level of excellence and professionalism she has provided the Lodge in the very important role of Lodge Secretary.

I hope to meet all of you as time goes on and my goal is to serve the Lodge in the best capacity I can.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve at this Lodge.  
Kathy Garcia (aka Kat)

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### Did You Pay Your Dues?

If you didn't, your membership terminated last night at midnight.

Contact the Lodge secretary ASAP to renew -- 941-764-6925.

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## Ladies of the Elks Support Autism Awareness

The Ladies of the Elks (LOE) continue to make an incredible impact in our community through their dedication to charitable giving. Their current focus is raising funds for Autism testing and diagnosis for children, which cost \$4,700 per child. Every dollar raised helps families get the answers and support they need.

Here are a few fun ways you can help support this important cause:

### **Candy-filled Easter eggs**

Grab an egg for \$1 each from an LoE. Every egg is filled with candy, and some contain money—\$1, \$5, \$10 or a drink chip for the bar.

### **Autism Awareness Tree**

You can also support by donating an ornament for the Autism Tree, helping it grow as a symbol of hope and support for children and families.

The Ladies of the Elks are proud to be among the top Autism fundraising Lodges in the state. With your help, they hope to climb to number 1.

Every ticket, every egg and every ornament bring us closer to helping another child receive the diagnosis and support they deserve.

Thank you for supporting the Ladies of the Elks and the families in our community.



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## **New Officers Installed**



The 2026-27 Officers: (from left) Lynn Ruggeiri, Ashley DesChamps Gildart, Kevin Setchell, Jed Koontz, Kathy Garcia, PER Linda Deschamps, Debra Giambra (back row, left) Frank Ruggeiri, Rick Smith, Lou Polito, PER Jeff Kempton, and Bill Johnston.

## And the Ladies of the Elks



From left, President Pam Setchell, Karen Moerlein, Mary Sugrue, Lori DeMio, Cheryl Usowicz, and Sandy Yeager.

## Annual Awards



**Volunteers Of The Year**  
Diana and Bill  
Chesen



**Elks Of The Year**  
PER Linda Deschamps



**Officer Of The Year**  
Rick Smith

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**Sunday Lunch Hours Paused**

You may recall that at the conclusion of the football season, we paused our regular Sunday lunch schedule, continuing only for special occasions such as entertainment events and other gatherings.

This approach has worked well during the quieter months, and we will continue with this schedule through the summer. We look forward to resuming our full Sunday lunch offerings when football season returns on Sept. 13, 2026.

As always, our goal is to align our activities with member interest and participation. With that in mind, we are also seeking your feedback regarding Tuesday night dinners. Historically, attendance has been lower during the off-season months, and with the Parrot Heads no longer hosting during this period, we are considering a seasonal pause from May through September.

Before making any decisions, we would truly appreciate hearing from you. Please share your thoughts, suggestions, or interest in continuing Tuesday dinners during the summer months with any Lodge officer or House Committee member.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement—we look forward to a great year ahead together.

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## We CARE

Using the last of the Beacon Grant funds we received, the Lodge donated \$3,000 worth of personal and hygiene products to the Charlotte CARE Center. ER Scott Hegeland, secretary Stephanie Hegeland and Pat Davis, Lodge member and volunteer at the CARE center, loaded two SUVs on March 26 and delivered the goods.

Kasie Martin, CARE executive chef and volunteer coordinator (pictured below, center) said the sleeping bags, sleeping mats, wet wipes and bug spray were a blessing.





## More Donations



Karen Moerlein, representing Ladies of the Elks #2763, recently presented three \$3,000 scholarships to students of Charlotte Technical College. These are funds generated in part from Show Me The Money, which the LOE hosts every Monday.

This is another example of the charitable support Lodge #2763 provides within our community.

If you want to be a part of something larger than yourself, come be a part of the Deep Creek Elks and Ladies of the Elks #2763 as we continue to give back to our community.

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Elks members recently delivered care packages to Charlotte High School's Tarpons For Our Troops.

Tarpons For Our Troops is a fundraising initiative at Charlotte High School aimed at honoring veterans. This program, in collaboration with the NJROTC, organizes events like the Field of Flags, where each flag represents a veteran. The goal is to raise critical funds to support ill and injured heroes. This initiative reflects the school's commitment to serving those who have sacrificed for the country.

We delivered \$350 worth of pantry items and \$650 for postage.

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## **Paid In Full**



We did it! In a ceremony on Thursday, March 27, ER Scott Hegeland set fire to our old mortgage debt to a round of cheers and applause. A two-day celebration followed. Lodge officers are still celebrating!

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## Did You Miss The Beatles?

Click on the video for a peek at the fun you could have had.



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 CORNHOLE 2p	2 LODGE MEETING INITIATION 7p BARGO 2p	3 HOT ROD HEARTS BAR GAMES 1p	4 JUKE BOX DREAMS
5 CLOSED EASTER	6 SMT\$\$ 2p	7 KARAOKE 5:30p DOUBLE TROUBLE 1p	8 CORNHOLE 2p	9 LoE 11am ORIENTATION 6p BARGO 2p	10 Nicky D Band BAR GAMES 1p	11 TAT 2
12 2 Doors Down BOWLING 1p	13 SMT\$\$ 2p	14 DOUBLE TROUBLE 1p	15 CORNHOLE 2p	16 LODGE MEETING 7p BARGO 2p	17 SIMPLY 60s BAR GAMES 1p	18 HOLLY RAE
19 BOWLING 1p	20 TRIVIA 6p SMT\$\$ 2p	21 KARAOKE 5:30p DOUBLE TROUBLE 1p	22 CORNHOLE 2p	23 BARGO 2p	24 TAKE 3 BAR GAMES 1p	25 TIN CAN TOUREST
26 BOWLING 1p	27 SMT\$\$ 2p	28 EUCHRE 5:30p DOUBLE TROUBLE 1p	29 CORNHOLE 2p	30 BARGO 2p	May 1 TNT BAR GAMES 1p	May 2 JERSEY BEAT
Lunch: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday Noon to 2pm Wednesday Noon to 4pm Dinner: Tuesday 4:30 to 7pm Friday, Saturday 4:30 to 7:30 pm				RESERVATIONS PLEASE: 239-413-8244-		

Calendar subject to change.

## New Year ... New Look ... New Page

Follow us on our new Facebook Page.  
Search for Deep Creek Elks Lodge #2763  
or click [HERE](#) to take you to our page.

Remember to click the FOLLOW button.



## Important Contact Information

Reservations ONLY

239-413-8244

Office: Lodge business

941-764-6925

House Committee:

Answering Machine for booking parties and bands

941-249-8067

Bar ONLY

941-764-6825

Check our public Facebook page

(Deep Creek Elks Lodge #2763) for event information.

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