

North
Carolina



February March 2023

NCSEA Holds Leadership Seminar

111 Members from 23 North Carolina Lodges met together at the High Point Lodge on February 25th for the annual Leadership Seminar. The day long session gave new and existing Officers, plus interested members the opportunity to learn more about the duties of Officers and various Lodge Committees. Learn how to use elks.org to access information on Grand Lodge contests and programs, and updates from the Grand Lodge.

[Pictures on page 4](#)



A MESSAGE FROM STATE PRESIDENT JOHN LAWRENCE



Wow! One word that describes the journey that my wife Cheryl and I have been on this past year! From being installed as your State President in Charlotte last year to the Grand Lodge Convention in Atlanta along with visits to our Elk neighbors in Virginia and South Carolina it has been quite a thrill ride! All of those visits were fun, but the most enjoyment I had was visiting the Lodges right here in North Carolina. Seeing all of the work that is being done by members across the State makes me very proud to have served as your President. By visiting other Lodges, I was able to see first-hand what you are accomplishing in your Lodges and in your communities. Your support for Veterans and the youth of North Carolina is unwavering! From the support given to the Veterans Homes and Hospitals to Camp Carefree, to the homeless facilities and soup kitchens, NC Elks demonstrates what it is to be a true Elk, and that our motto Elks Care, Elks Share is more than just words. You should all be very proud of what your Lodge does and what North Carolina Elks are doing to make a difference in the lives of so many less fortunate individuals!

I am truly proud of all of our programs. Hoop Shoots and Soccer Shoots, Drug Awareness, Scholarship and Americanism programs assist so many young people in our State. ENF and Grant Programs along with Disaster Relief and support from our Charitable Trust assist so many others in our State and in other locations as well. The Leadership Committee along with the Convention Committee have streamlined our programs with more emphasis on training at our seminars and conventions. The Ritual and Protocol Committee has added new contests for all Elks to participate in. The Government Relations Team keeps us abreast of any changes in regulations that may affect our Lodges. The Thad Eure award is the most cherished award an Elk can receive, and worthy applications are received each year.

The most important thing in any Lodge is the membership. Without members we have no Lodge. Again this year the NC Elks have an increase in membership and we now stand at over 10,000 strong thanks again to Al Harms and his Committee members. We will strive to continue our membership growth and shoot for 11,000 members for 2023/2024.

Continued on following page.

STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE CONTINUED

As this is my last message as your President, I want to thank some special people who have helped me on my journey. I learned many things travelling with PSP Frank Brady last year and thank him for his advice and wisdom. I want to thank Mark Alderman for all of his assistance this past year. He is going to be a tremendous asset as your next State President. I want to thank my Vice Presidents, Juanita Adams, David Greiner, Kathy Hulla and Mike Pace for their assistance. I need to thank Mike Curran and Gary Plough along with John Boyd for keeping me straight throughout the year. Ashley Buckwell and Steve Johnson made sure that the State Association news was distributed to all NC Elks. My New Bern Lodge ER and PDDGER Fred Follett rode shotgun with me as I travelled across the State and his wife Linda took over my job as Lodge Secretary so that I could devote more time to the chores of the Presidency and I will always treasure their friendship! The Leadership Team, Convention Committee and all of my Committee Chairmen and members also deserve a thank you for all that they have done as well. I cannot thank my wonderful wife Cheryl enough for all of her help and assistance. She was always there for me and kept me on task to be sure that the affairs of the NC Elks were handled in a proper and timely manner.

Finally, I hope all of you will follow my motto, "Choose Wisely" in all of your dealings within you Lodge and communities. Thank you all, it was truly a profound honor to serve as your 2022/2023 North Carolina State Elks Association President!



A MESSAGE FROM GRAND EXALTED RULER BRUCE HIDLEY

New leadership pushing forward with positivity



April begins with the changing of the guard. It is extremely important that the new Officers, Board of Directors, and Trustees work hand in hand to accomplish the important programs in each of your Lodges. It is crucial to develop a budget for your Lodge that each committee can work with. You must develop a budget that will keep your Lodge financially sound throughout the new Lodge year. Pick out a night and invite all the Officers, Board of Directors, and your committee members and take this opportunity to review your Lodge budget. Discuss ideas to make your Lodge programs even better. Discuss your goals for the Elks National Foundation, your state's Major Project, and any other community activities that your Lodge may be involved with. Listen to what your Members have to say. Always consider their input and be open and flexible to new ideas. Perhaps say, "OK, let's try it." Another area of critical focus at the onset of a new Elks year is membership. Work with your appointed Membership/ Membership Retention Chair as a team. All of your Lodge Members are a part of your membership committee. It is important to reach out to delinquent Members in order to bring them back into your Lodge. It may only take one phone call. There is a chance that by speaking with the delinquent Member, you may get them to renew their dues and become an active Member again. Your Lodge Secretary plays a very important role for Members who were dropped for nonpayment of dues. I encourage you to review Statute 14.180. This Statute is very clear that your Lodge Secretary shall advise the unaffiliated of his/her rights to reaffiliate within 60 days. Make +1 in membership a priority during your term. I know our Grand Lodge Membership Marketing Manager Rick Gathen would be very proud to say your Lodge achieved a +1 in membership. With the leadership team you have put together, I know how hard you will be working on "Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm." April also is the month when families get together for Passover and Easter. Helen and I want to wish you and your families a wonderful holiday celebration. In closing, thank you for your continued leadership this year by working hard within your communities to show that "Elks Care — Elks Share." God bless each of you. God bless our troops, past and present. And most of all, God bless America.

Leadership Seminar



Pictured above left: Toni Deal gives a rousing, energetic program at “Initiation Boy” during the Lodge Membership program.

Above right: State President John Lawrence welcomes the seminar attendees.

Below: Special Deputy John Boyd and Judiciary Committee Member David Doherty presenting a session on the House Committee’s duties and procedures.



**N.C.STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION, INC.
2023 SPRING CONVENTION**

**May 5 - 7, 2023
Asheville, NC**



Welcoming Special Guests:

*Michael Miller, Virginia Elks State President & First Lady Barbara
John "Breezy" Powers, Jr., SC Elks State President & Joanne Shalaby*

**HOTEL, CONVENTION AND GOLF TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION / PAYMENT
IS NOW COMPLETELY AVAILABLE ONLINE!**

ncelksconvention.weebly.com/

To Complete Your Registration Online or You Can Mail In Your Registration With Payment
(First 25 registered get FREE RED Friday T-Shirt)

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL AND RESORTS

1 Resort Drive - Asheville, NC 28806

Registration fee \$75 per person

Rooms \$196.62 per night (includes tax)

Contact Crowne Plaza Hotel for Reservations

(828) 254-3211 | Group Code— ELK

Deadline to make a room reservation is April 3, 2023

**ALL ROOM RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE
DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL OR THROUGH THE WEBSITE ABOVE**

GOLF TOURNAMENT AT CROWNE PLAZA GOLF COURSE

Friday, May 5, at 8:00 am

Captain's Choice Format A BCD

Prizes for Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive, and 1st and 2nd Place Teams

Awards will be presented at Sunday Breakfast Meeting



Convention schedule on following page.

**NC STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION, INC.
2023 SPRING CONVENTION, ASHEVILLE**

Crown Plaza – May 5,6, & 7 2023

1 Resort Dr, Asheville NC 28806

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NC Elks Welcome SC State President John W. "Breezy" Powers Jr. and Joanne Shalaby.

Friday May 5, 2023

8:00 AM	NC Elks Golf Outing
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM	NC Elks & Guests Registration
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Charitable Trust BOD's Meeting
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	PSP Advisory Board Meeting
3:30 PM– 4:30 PM	NCSEA BOD's Meeting
3:00 PM – 11:00 PM	District Hospitality Rooms (Admittance by Convention Badge Only)
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Advisory Board Social (by invitation only)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Advisory Board Dinner (by invitation only)

Saturday May 6, 2023

7:00 AM – 12:00 Noon	NC Elks & Guests Registration
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM	NCSEA Business Meeting
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Ladies & Spouses Social
12:30 AM – 2:00 PM	NCSEA Luncheon
2:30 PM	State Sponsor Frost Meetings
2:30 PM	VP's Education Meeting – Michael Curran
2:30 PM	Educational Breakout Sessions ER's & Officers Secretaries & Treasurers PR & Social Media
2:30 PM	Ritual Contests – David King
3:30 PM	Long Range Planning Meeting
4:00 PM	CT Shoot Out Fund Raiser
4:00 PM	PER Auction
4:00 PM – 11:00 PM	District Hospitality Rooms

Sunday May 7, 2023

8:30 AM	NCSEA PER Members & Guests Meeting & Breakfast
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APRIL DISTRICT DEPUTY CLINICS

East District: Jody Pascarella, District Deputy

Calabash Lodge April 16, 2023

East Central District: Derik Sims, District Deputy

Roxboro Lodge April 2, 2023

West Central District: Richard Penk, District Deputy

Winston Salem Lodge April 23, 2023

West District: Mark Couch, District Deputy

Newton Lodge April 2, 2023

NCSEA Ritual Contest

Start practicing now!!!

At the Spring meeting in Asheville, the NCSEA will be conducting ritual contests for the Eleven O'clock Toast and the American Flag Charge. The Toast competition will have two divisions. One division will be for current Exalted Rulers and the Open Division will be for anyone else. The Flag Charge competition will be for all comers.

The highest scoring ER or PER in each contest will have the privilege of representing North Carolina at the Grand Lodge competition in Minneapolis. Start working on your Toast and Flag Charge! For more detailed information, please visit <https://ncelks.org/members-only/ritual-contest/> or contact David King, NC Ritual Chair.

11 O'Clock Toast



CHARITABLE TRUST PARADE OF LODGES



Attention all Lodges!!!

Saturday at the Spring Convention in Asheville the Charitable Trust will be accepting donations during the Parade of Lodges during the business meeting. Each Lodge is requested to bring a donation.

Remember, this is an investment in our future!!!

Your donation helps support NCSEA projects and programs.

North Carolina Veterans Homes

Camp Carefree

Community Grant Program

Scholarships

Can't make the convention?

Click on the QR Code to make your donation today. Remember your donation is tax deductible .





NCSEA HOOP SHOOT WINNERS



The North Carolina State Hoop Shoot was held in Greensboro, NC on February 11, 2023. Registration and lunch was at the Greensboro Elks Lodge and the shoot was held at Greensboro Grimsley High School.

All the participants shot very well. The winners were.

8-9 boy Talan Wheeler representing, Hickory Lodge made 24 of 25 shots

8-9 girl Callie Stich representing, Southern Pines Lodge made 20 of 25 shots

10-11 boy Rhys Fitzgerald representing, Roxboro Lodge made 22 of 25 shots

10-11 girl Ziyah Bailey representing, North Wilkesboro made Lodge 19 of 25 shots

12-13 boy Elijah Hearn representing, Mount Airy Lodge made 22 of 25 shots

12-13 girl Aunica Tomlinson representing, Morganton Lodge made 24 of 25 shots

They will all advance to the Southeast Central Region 10 Shoot, that will be held in Charlottesville VA on March 11, 2023, the winners there will advance to the National Hoop Shoot Finals to be held in Chicago, Illinois on April 22, 2023





NCSEA Has 2 Regional Winners

The Southeast Region 10 Hoop Shoot was held in Charlottesville, Virginia on March 11, 2023. The six participants from North Carolina shot very well but unfortunately only two will advance to the National Hoop Shoot Finals to be held in Chicago, Illinois on April 22, 2023.

Our 8-9 girl Callie Stich representing Southern Pines Lodge who made 15 of 25 tied for first and then hit 4 of 5 in the shot off to take first place, Our 8-9 boy Talan Wheeler representing Hickory Lodge hit 24 of 25 tied for first and then hit 10 of 10 in the shoot off to take first place. Our four other participants were our 10-11 girl Ziyah Bailey representing North Wilkesboro Lodge, 10-11 boy Rhys Fitzgerald representing Roxboro Lodge, 12-13 girl Aunica Tomlinson representing Morganton Lodge and 12-13 boy Elijah Hearn representing Mount Airy Lodge the NCSEA are very proud of all the participants and expect to see them again in our Hoop Shoot program.

Mark Alderman with regional winners
Talan Wheeler and Callie Stich



The Hickory, NC Elks would like to congratulate Talan Wheeler, on his win at the Regional Hoop Shoot Finals. Talan is pictured here with his father, Jeff.

PAST EXALTED RULERS



**REMEMBER TO ATTEND THE PAST EXALTED RULERS
AUCTION, SATURDAY AFTERNOON 4PM**

**PROCEEDS WILL BE USED TO FUND THE PER ASSOCIATION
COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM**

**EACH LODGE IS REQUESTED TO BRING A NEW OR ITEM OF
VALUE TO BE AUCTIONED OFF**

CONVENTION ATTENDEES MAY ALSO DONATE AN ITEM

BID OFTEN AND BID HIGH

NEWS FROM EAST DISTRICT LODGES

GOLDSBORO LODGE PRESENTED

AIR FORCE FAMILY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Goldsboro Elks Lodge presented Air Force Family Scholarships to six deserving students. The AF Family Scholarship Program funds college scholarships for the children and spouses of disabled or fallen Airmen who are attending accredited North Carolina post-secondary educational institutions. The program is administered by the lodge and funded through a grant from the Patriot Foundation, who has provided scholarship assistance to military and veteran families nationwide since 2003. In attendance to help present the AF Family scholarships were President / CEO of the Patriot Foundation Ms. Kim Gilley, Patriot Foundation Scholarship Administrator Ms. Amber Johnson Carter, and 4th Fighter Wing Vice Commander Colonel Bryce Silver. The scholarship recipients were: Kiera Alysse Negron, MaKenzy Ann Schinsky, Jakob Robert Volk, Brianna Catherine Martin, Taylor F. Grotjan, and Jessica Wilson.



In other news the Goldsboro Elks Lodge distributed their \$3000 Gratitude grant to organizations who work with children, victims of domestic violence, and other vulnerable members of our community. This year's grant recipients were Goldsboro Ballet, Goldsboro Police Explorers, Wayne Uplift, and the Goldsboro Highschool Marching Band

GOLDSBORO ELKS DONATE GRANT TO AID VETERANS



Goldsboro Elks Lodge #139 presented their \$2000 Spotlight grant to NuHope Community Center, an organization which provides housing to at risk or homeless military Veterans. Our grant was used to help pilot a tiny home project in our community. Accepting our donation from ER Alex Wingate and Loyal Knight Shelby Ostendorf is NuHope Community Center founder Mrs. Janice Johnson (center).

GOLDSBORO LODGE DONATES TO NIGHT TO SHINE PROM

The Goldsboro Elks Lodge #139 presented a \$500 donation to sponsor our community's annual Night to Shine prom event.

Accepting the donation from ER Alex Wingate are event organizers Donna and Heather Countryman.



CALABASH LODGE DONATES TO HONOR FLIGHT

The Veteran's Affairs Committee of the Calabash Elks Lodge recently donated \$2,000 to Honor Flight of the Cape Fear Area . HFCFA is one of over 130 Honor Flight "hubs" in 45 states. Honor Flight was founded early 2020 as a 100% volunteer nonprofit with the mission of flying WWII, Korea, and Vietnam era Veterans to Washington, DC for an all-expense paid day of recognition and remembrance. The trip is free to Veterans and is funded solely from donations such as this one, other individuals and groups, and corporate support. The next flight, scheduled for April 29, 2023 from ILM to Washington, will include one of our VAC members.



Pictured (L-R) are Joyce Dorsa, Veterans Committee Member; John Corbett, Committee Co-Chairman; Carolyn Hughes, Honor Flight Representative; Jerry Kimble, Committee Co-Chair and 2023 flight veteran, and Gary Reynolds, VAC Member and 2022 flight veteran.

OAK ISLAND LODGE DONATES TO MATTHEWS MINISTRY



The Oak Island Elks Lodge recently donated \$2000.00 to Matthews Ministry. Matthew's Ministry works to eliminate weekend and non-school day hunger with a viable backpack program that provides weekend food to school children during the school year. They provide weekend food to over 550 children at 16 area schools. Funding is essential to ensure that food can continue to be purchased and delivered to children identified as food insecure.

Pictured are Kristie Disbrow, director of Matthews Ministries and Elk member John Borklund.

OAK ISLAND ELKS DONATE TO NEW HOPE CLINIC and OAK ISLAND WATER RESCUE



Oak Island Elks Lodge #2769 recently donated \$2000.00 to the New Hope Clinic of Brunswick County North Carolina. New Hope Clinic was established over 20 years ago to provide free healthcare services to adults in Brunswick County who lack health insurance, Medicare or Medicaid.

Pictured are Sheila Roberts from New Hope Clinic and John Borklund, Elks Member

Oak Island Elks Lodge #2769 recently donated \$2000.00 to Oak Island Water Rescue.

Oak Island Water Rescue is a non-profit 20 member volunteer emergency response team that aids swimmers and boaters in distress. They also assist the Oak Island Police Department and Oak Island Fire Department with missing persons and beach transfers, as well as the United States Coast Guard with in-shore Search and Rescue operations.

Pictured L-R: Pete Grendze, OKI water rescue; John Borklund, Elks member; and Bill Smith, OKI water rescue



CALABASH LODGE DONATES VETERANS MEMORIAL REEF

The Calabash Elks Lodge Veteran's Affairs Committee recently donated \$3,000 to Veterans Memorial Reef to assist needy Veterans and their families in managing their final expenses. The mission of the Veterans Memorial Reef program is to provide final resting service to Veterans who have honorably served in our Armed Forces. The Veterans are interned in aquatic memorial markers that will be added to artificial reef ecosystems in a 160 acre area off the coast of Carolina Beach/Wilmington known as Artificial Reef 371.



Pictured (L-R) are Susan Scott, VAC Member; John Corbett, VAC Co-Chairman; Dr. Tom Marcinowski, Founder of Veterans Memorial Reef; Jerry Kimble, VAC Co-Chair, and Jim Kozlowski, VAC Member.

CALABASH ELKS DONATE TO LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

The Calabash Elks recently donated 187 lb's of food and a check for \$1500 to Brunswick Family Assistance, a local food pantry. The food was donated by members and the check came from proceeds from the Lodge's charity golf tournament. In addition to BFA, checks of \$1500 were donated to 7 other local charities.

Pictured L to R are Mark Kerr, Lodge Trustee; Jeremy Pechin BFA Food Mgr; Stephanie Bowen, BFA Community Outreach Administrator; and Ed Sackal, Golf Committee Co-chair.



CALABASH ELKS KAZOO BAND MARCHES IN NORTH MYRTLE BEACH ST. PATRICKS PARADE



On March 11th the Calabash Elks kazoo band marched in the North Myrtle Beach St. Patrick's Day Parade. It was a fun event followed by a St. Patrick's Day luncheon back at the Lodge.



CALABASH ELKS DUELING PIANOS RAISE MONEY FOR HOPE, HEALING AND JOY



180 members showed up at the Lodge for a dueling piano fundraiser for Hope, Healing and Joy, a branch of Free Spirit Conservatory of the Arts, in Sunset Beach. They are dedicated to using resources to promote wellness through the healing power of the performing arts. Hope, Healing and Joy provides a variety of musicians, entertainers, and performers to make this possible. Their enthusiastic entertainers perform at healthcare, assisted-living and retirement facilities, community centers, domestic abuse shelters, prisons, and wherever such need exists.

OAK ISLAND LODGE DONATES TO WELLNESS CENTER



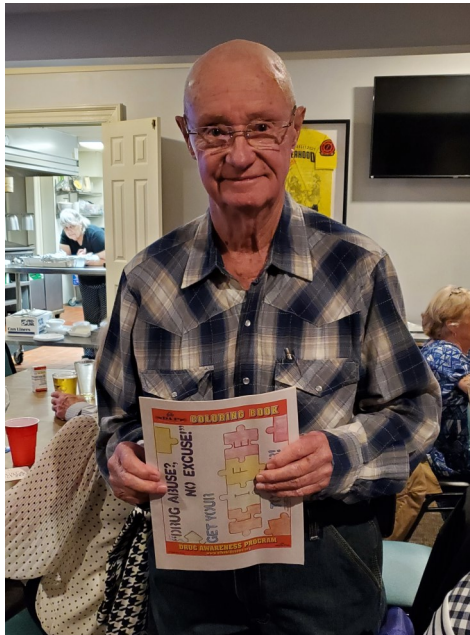
The Oak Island Lodge recently donated \$500 to the NC Brunswick County Wellness Center.

The Wellness Center is dedicated to the physical training of the citizens of Brunswick county who live with chronic conditions that affect the movement of the body.

Pictured are Elk Dan Sellers, and Christy Gillenwater, Director of the Wellness Center.

NEWS FROM EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT LODGES

RALIEGH MEMBER DAN WALL DISTRIBUTES DRUG AWARENESS COLORING BOOKS



Dan Wall from The Raleigh Elks Lodge has been providing almost 1500 Drug Awareness coloring books to municipalities and schools in order to spread the word to our kids, "Say No To Drugs!"

Dan says this is not the first time I have done this. I gave some of them to the Clayton, NC Police Department to put in patrol cars, also to a school nurse, and several to homeschool moms.

RALEIGH LODGE NAMES CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Even before joining the Raleigh Lodge, Bill Carrington-Smith was a positive force in the community. Often taking care of less fortunate persons, starting the Hearts for Hands project to assist homeless persons, then driving golf tournaments which helped support Lodge charities, etc. Truly a community minded Elk, driven to success, Bill was recognized as Citizen of the Year by the Raleigh Elks Lodge.



NEWS FROM WEST DISTRICT LODGES

HICKORY LODGE AIDS IN COUNT OF NEEDS OF HOMELESS

The Hickory Elks volunteered with Partners Health Management, the Salvation Army and the United Way, to aid community organizations to get an accurate point in time (PIT) count of the needs of the homeless in Catawba County. This data was collected at three locations. This event was located at The Hickory Soup Kitchen. Volunteers met with the unsheltered individuals to gather the data needed to aid organizations in accurately representing the homeless population in grant proposals. Tables were also set up for healthcare and housing services for those in need of services.

Pictured below, Elk, Jacqueline Brinson, Erin Gaskins housing specialist with Partners Health, Elk, Samantha Bowman (Veterans Committee Chair), Amber Story, Housing Specialist with Partners Health, and Elk, Cary Bowman.



Pictured L-R; Elk, Jacqueline Brinson; Erin Gaskins Housing Specialist with Partners Health; Elk, Samantha Bowman (Veterans Committee Chair); Amber Story, Housing Specialist with Partners Health; and Elk, Cary Bowman.

HICKORY ELKS PARTICIPATE IN HELPING HANDS

Volunteers from Hickory Lodge #1654 are participating in the Helping Hands Program to feed those in the community with food insecurities. This program partners with other churches in the community to provide for those in need on Sundays, as there are few sources for these individuals to receive a hot meal in our community on Sundays. The Hickory Lodge cooks a hot lunch and provides a to-go package with two additional meals for those in need to take with them on the fourth Sunday of each month.



MORGANTON LODGE DELIVERS FOOD TO NEEDY CHILDREN



With the Beacon Grant the Morganton Elks were able to purchase, bag, and deliver food to children at Mountain View Elementary.

HICKORY ELKS DELIVER WELCOME HOME KIT

Another "Welcome Home Kit" was delivered by the Hickory Elks Veterans Committee to veteran, Randy Haynes, who was homeless for a few years but was recently housed by the VA housing specialists Cyndee Austria and Fran Bryson. Elk members, Judy Benton did the shopping and, along with her husband, Jim Benton made this delivery. A big thanks to Judy and Jim for making this happen and thanks to the Elks National Veterans Service Commission for making such a wonderful program available in our community.



This publication is produced for and by the North Carolina State Elks Association.

The NCSEA Communication Committee encourages all member Lodges and Committee Chairmen to submit articles to be included in future issues.

All submissions may be forwarded to Ashley Buckwell, Editor at ashbuc@atmc.net