

North
Carolina



JUNE JULY 2023

**State President Mark Alderman Presented the
North Carolina Flag at the Grand Lodge Convention**



NC Elks were well represented at the National Convention on the stage and during trainings. State President Mark Alderman (Mt. Airy Elks) presented our flag during the opening ceremonies. David Doherty (Salisbury Elks), presented resolutions to Grand Lodge Members, and Michael Bryant (Hickory Elks) gave a wonderful presentation to all the new DD's on Activities, and all the delegates helped celebrate Randy Shooks election as the new Grand Exalted Ruler.



Message from State President Mark Alderman

Wow, looking back on the 2023 Grand Lodge Convention held in Minneapolis, Minnesota my mind is filled with many thoughts. I am so honored to have represented the North Carolina State Elks Association by carrying our State Flag across the stage at the National Convention. I will treasure that experience forever. In 2004 I served as Exalted Ruler of the Mount Airy Lodge at the Grand Lodge Convention held in Minneapolis, Minnesota and now to return to the Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis as the State President of The NCSEA is very special for me. The weather was much hotter this time around than the first trip. Our NC Lodges shined with awards, The Community Project Contest saw Goldsboro Lodge #139 take first place in Division III and Roxboro Lodge #2005 took 2nd place in Division II.

We also had three Lodges that were National Finalists in the All American Lodge Contest, in Division I Fayetteville Lodge #1081 and Mount Airy Lodge # 2061. In Division V Hickory Lodge #1654 Congratulations to all these Lodges. Also, Contest One Winners- State Bulletin Contest recognizes the best State Association bulletins our North Carolina Editor Ashley Buckwell was a 4 Star **** Award Winner. Great work Ashley! North Carolina received an award for 17th place in the nation in membership gain; a big thank you to Al Harms and all our membership committees.

In other happenings at the convention, our new District Deputies were installed, let's all congratulate David King, Michelle Delaire, Toni Deal, and Gary Gantt on their new appointments and look forward to attending their respective DD Clinics. All that attended the Convention must agree with me that Joe and Yenly Clancy did an outstanding job in running our hospitality room. Be sure to thank them when you see them! I had the privilege to be an Assistant Grand Tiler during the Resolution vote on Tuesday of the Convention. One last thing on the Convention news: more funding for the Welcome Home Kits will be available this year; \$600 for kits with bed and \$300 for kits without bed.

Continued on next page!!

State Presidents Message Continued

In June I traveled to Portsmouth Virginia to attend their State Convention. Virginia State President Michael Miller and wife Sue-Ellen were great hosts. Also, our Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce Hidley and his wife Helen were in attendance. I will cherish the memory. I had the honor of playing golf with GER Bruce Hidley, PGER Ron Hicks and PSP Paul Shoemaker, and we had an awesome time. Next Month, I will travel to South Carolina for their State Convention in Spartanburg. I look forward to seeing Brezzy Powers, their State President, again. The month of August will see our District Deputy Clinics start up across our state. Please make plans to attend your District Clinics. I look forward to seeing my NC Elk friends!

Our new Grand Exalted Ruler is Randy P. Shook and First Lady Wanda from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee Lodge #2206. His motto for this year is " We Are The ELKS!" They will be attending our Fall Convention which will be held in Charlotte in October. Be sure to register when it comes on-line.

Mark Alderman

NCSEA President



ELKS
Promote Elkdom

742126 **ADMIT TWO** 742126

Invite two friends to join your lodge this year.

Community • Friendship • Charity
join.elks.org



Message From Grand Exalted Ruler

Randy P Shook



After being elected Grand Exalted Ruler at the convention in Minneapolis, Wanda and I are humbled and honored to represent our great Order this year. We have truly been blessed by the aid and support of so many people throughout the years. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our family, friends, and to you, our Elks family. We say thank you, one and all, for everything. My slogan for 2023–2024 is “We Are THE Elks.” I am sure you will be hearing more about this at your District Deputy Clinic this month. As we travel the country, Wanda and I are committed to promoting our Elks programs like never before. It is our belief this will make our Lodges stronger and improve our image throughout our great Order. We will be promoting community service programs throughout our travels. These

programs build stronger communities while stimulating a response that motivates worthy members of the public to seek Elks membership. In this way, our community service builds the foundation for our future. Successful Lodges of the future will create and develop local projects that will become signature accomplishments in the eyes of the community. In turn, members of the community will see these projects mature over time and want to become involved. If we work together toward our charitable pursuits and remain faithful to our programs, I’m confident we will soon see an increase in membership— not mere temporary gains, but a new era of growth where participation becomes commonplace. A great source of funding for some community projects is the Elks National Foundation, known as the “Great Heart Of Elkdom.” The ENF helps build stronger communities through programs that support youth, serve veterans, and meet the needs in areas where we live and work. The Foundation has allocated almost \$16 million for Lodge Community Service Grants. This grant program allows your Lodge to complete more for your communities. This is once again a way for you to show your communities that Elks Care—Elks Share. Make the Elks presence felt in your community by using these grants. What is your Lodge known for in your community? What reputation would you like to have? Find that need in your community and get it done. This will ensure people in your community know that “We Are THE Elks.” The support we provide makes the Foundation’s work possible. The goal we have established for the 2023–2024 fraternal year is \$4.80 per Member. That is not much when you consider the outstanding achievements of this program. Remember “Elks Care—Elks Share” and “We Are THE Elks.” God bless our great Order, our troops, and the United States of America

Elks Care - Elks Share

2023-2024 DISTRICT DEPUTY CLINICS

East District

August 27, 2023

January 7, 2024

April 7, 2024

David King, District Deputy

Goldsboro Lodge

Elizabeth City

Oak Island Lodge



East Central District

August 20, 2023

January 14, 2024

April 14, 2024

Michelle DeLaire, District Deputy

Rocky Mt. Lodge

Wilson Lodge

Raleigh Lodge



West Central District

August 13, 2023

January 28, 2024

April 21, 2024

Toni Deal, District Deputy

Greensboro Lodge

Salisbury NC

Reidsville Lodge



West District

August 6, 2023

January 21, 2024

March 24, 2024

Gary Gantt, District Deputy

Asheville Lodge

Hickory NC

Morganton Lodge



PAST EXALTED RULERS ASSOC. 1st ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



The PER Association will be holding its first annual Golf Tournament on September 22, 2023 at Oak Valley Golf Club. Oak Valley is an Arnold Palmer 4 star course located near Clemmons, N.C. The cost per player is \$100.00.

The shotgun start will begin at 9:30 am. Players will have the opportunity to purchase mulligans and tee busters on site. Lunch, swag bags and beverages will be provided.

Members, Lodges as well as businesses will also be able to purchase a hole sponsorship for \$50.00. All Lodges are strongly encouraged to sponsor a hole since all of the proceeds will towards North Carolina Ritual winners' representation expenses at the Grand Lodge Convention and PER Community Grants.

The cutoff for registration will be September 8th.

Go to ncelks.org for registration and hole sponsor forms

2023-2024 DISTRICT DEPUTIES



District Deputies L-R;

**West, Gary Gantt; West Central, Toni Deal;
East Central, Michelle DeLaire; East; David King**

Below; Taking the oath of office.

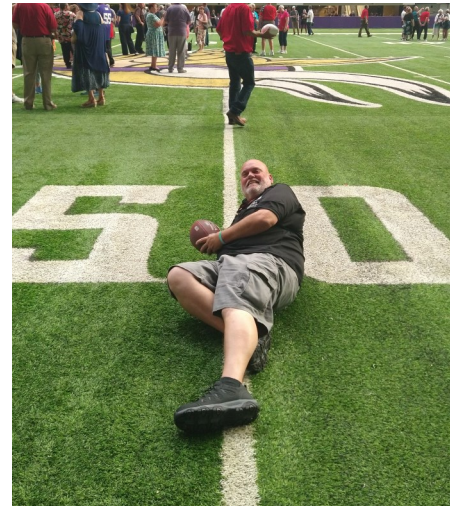




North Carolina Elks at the Grand Lodge Convention



State President Mark Alderman carrying the NC Flag during the convention opening and enjoying an evening during the ENF event at the Vikings stadium.

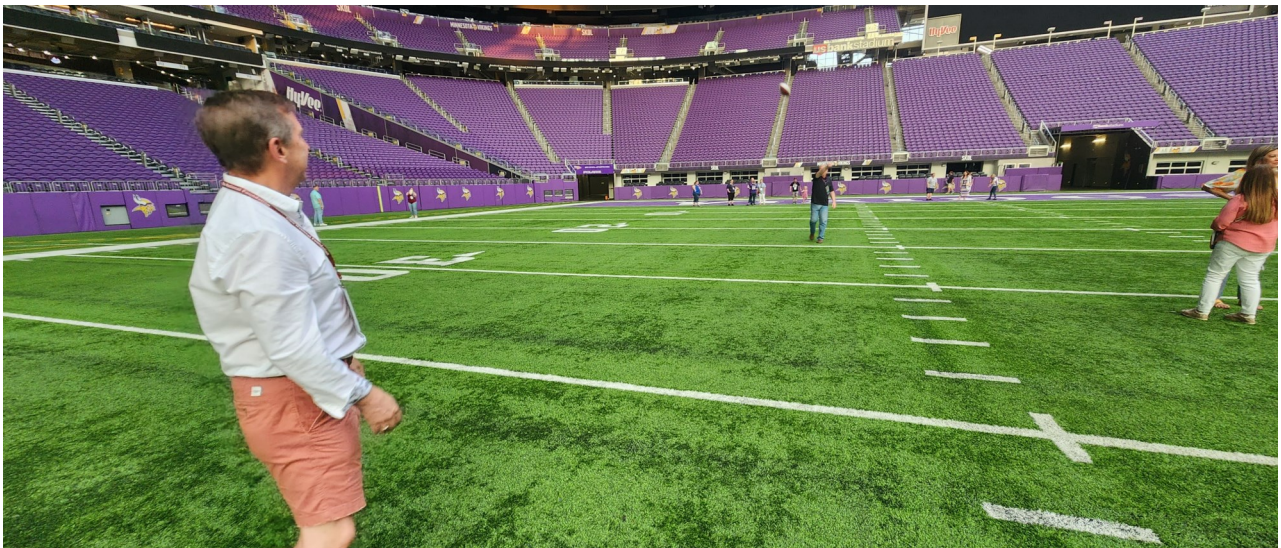


Would the real John Boyd please step forward?



Alex Wingate of the Goldsboro Lodge receiving the award for first place in Division III of the Grand Lodge Activities Contest at the Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis.

Their project was, "Partnering with the City of Goldsboro and Seymour Johnson AFB" Their lodge hosted their 2nd annual NC Freedom Fest, a two day music festival celebrating military, first responders, and their families."



President Elect Joe Clancy about to receive a pass from Mike Bryant. Mike is in the background and you can see the football in the air on the way to Joe.

The pic was taken on the field at US Bank Stadium which is where the Vikings play their games. This was the Saturday night ENF event.

Resolutions Voted on at the 2023 Grand Lodge Session

2023-1	To clarify this Constitutional provision by eliminating a redundancy. *Final approval of this proposed amendment requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at this assembly and compliance with Article IX of the Constitution.*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-2	To prohibit the use of resources of the Order and of Local Lodges for private, public, or social media fundraising activities in connection with a Local Forum or Grand Forum action.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-3	To prohibit the use of resources of the Order and of Local Lodges for private, public, or social media fundraising activities in connection with a Local Forum or Grand Forum action, and to authorize the Grand Forum to issue a contempt order.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-4	To formalize the appointment and authority of Special Representative District Leaders or Area Special Representatives.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-5	To clarify that the determination of whether there exists good cause not to attend a District Deputy Clinic rests with the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-6	To clarify that the determination of whether there exists good cause not to attend a District Deputy Clinic rests with the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-7	To require the Lodge Treasurer to attend all District Deputy Clinics.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-8	To clarify the types of projects that are subject to the provisions of this section of the Laws of the Order.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-9	To allow greater discretion for the use of defunct Lodge funds and to allow the Grand Exalted Ruler the authority to appoint a sufficient number of Trustees to administer the funds of a defunct Lodge.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed

2023-10	To allow Local Lodges to adopt a by-law setting a minimum age requirement for Life Membership applicants.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-11	To define spouse as used in the Grand Lodge Statutes and in publications.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-12	To require the Grand Lodge to provide a credit to Local Lodges for dropped Members.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Failed
2023-13	To authorize and prescribe the procedure by which a Member may resign from membership during the Lodge year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-14	To allow Members to transfer from a Lodge appealing a Charter revocation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-15	To permit and prescribe the procedure by which a Member, who has been dropped for non-payment, may apply for reinstatement in another Lodge when that individual's Lodge has had its Charter revoked and has appealed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-16	To allow a Local Lodge Past Exalted Rulers Association to form a separate non-profit corporation for the purpose of raising, receiving, and distributing funds for such charities, educational, and scientific purposes that are supported by its Lodge, State Association, and/or Grand Lodge.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Failed
2023-17	To make it clear that the Grand Exalted Ruler shall have the authority to remove any officer of a corporation formed pursuant to the new Section 16.035 who neglects the duties of office, or is guilty of contumacy or conduct injurious to the Order. *This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2023-16.*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-18	To allow a Local Lodge Past Exalted Rulers Association to form a separate non-profit corporation for the purpose of fundraising. *This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2023-16 and 2023-17.*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Failed



Mark your calendar!!!
This coming October 27th—29th
The NCSEA Fall Convention
Will be held in Charlotte at the
Doubletree by Hilton
5624 Westpark Dr.

Further details will be forthcoming in the
NCSEA Newsletter and at ncelks.org



MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE HELD AT FAYETTEVILLE VETERANS HOME

On Friday May 26th a Memorial Day event was held to the Fayetteville North Carolina Veteran Home arranged by Veterans Home Activities Director Cathy Smith for the one hundred and eight veteran residences, plus over sixty staff members at the facility.

NC State Elks President Elect Joe Clancy was the Guest Speaker at the event and was introduced by Chaplain McPhearson NCSVH-Chaplain. A "Presentation of Wreath" was done by Fayetteville Elks Exalted Ruler Shannon Fair and Fayetteville Elks Member David Perschbacher.

Lunch was cooked and prepared by Southern Pines Lodge Veterans Committee for the Veteran Residents, Staff and Guests.

ENVSC VAV District Director Phillip Saunders donated the Wreath for the Presentation.



News from the East District



CALABASH LODGE AND SCOUTS HOLD FLAG DAY CEREMONY



The Calabash Elks Lodge held a Flag Day Ceremony during the annual Community Day at the Lodge with the Scouts from Troop 201 in Sunset Beach presenting the Colors. The Lodge also presented a check for \$200 to the Scout Troop.

Pictured left is Lodge Exalted Ruler Juanita Adams presenting the check to Assistant Scout Leader Brian Aycoth.

MOREHEAD CITY LODGE AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Kent Neal Leading Knight presented two \$4000 checks to their Scholarship winners from West Carteret High School on May 30th. In the picture is Jackson Sproul and Margaret Davis.

Margaret 's mom wrote a note "Thank you again for making this an honor Maggie will never forget."



ELIZABETH CITY ELKS HELP BENJAMIN HOUSE RESIDENTS

The Elizabeth City Lodge used part of their Gratitude Grant to purchase electronic portals for Benjamin House residents so that they can better keep in touch with other residents, as well as their families and friends. The Benjamin House is a home for developmentally challenged adults and has long been a favorite beneficiary for the Elizabeth City Lodge.

Hannah Hartman, Lodge Esquire, is shown here (5th from left) visiting with the residents who are happily posing with their portals.



CALABASH ELKS PROMOTE DRUG AWARENESS



The Calabash Elks Lodge recently held a Community Day at the Lodge, which included the appearance of Elroy who handed out bags of Drug Awareness items for the children present. Several dozen youngsters received bags with coloring books, pencils, and other items promoting being drug free.

Pictured is Elroy, Lodge Inner Guard Ed Sackel, along with two of the children present.

SHALLOTTE LODGE SUPPORTS SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

The Shallotte Elks Lodge presented the Kiwanis of the Shallotte-South Brunswick Islands with a \$2,000 Check to continue their Summer Enrichment Program for lower income children.

The Idea is to give access to enrichment over the summer so they do not lose progress. The program will be spread over multiple days of the week. It is open to any Brunswick County student but targets Cardinal Point residents. Collaborators include the Rourk Library, Friends of the Library, Brunswick Art Council, NC Cooperative Extension and Brunswick Family Assistance (BFA). Ages eligible are elementary and middle school students. The objective is to provide a safe positive environment, accessibility to Summer Food and Christmas in July programs through BFA, provide a variety of books for children and adults and support academic success.

Pictured from L-R: Loyal Knight Dick Wilson, Leading Knight John Lear, Secretary/Treasurer Carolyn Garramone, Exalted Ruler Susan Berardi, Kiwanis President Bob VonSprecken, Kiwanis Secretary Lisa VonSprecken, Brunswick Beacon Editor Dylan Phillips, Barry Black, and Kiwanis President Elect Tom Gordon.



MOREHEAD CITY/BEAUFORT LODGE DONATES GRANT TO PROVIDE FISHING ADVENTURE FOR DISABLED VETS

Morehead City/Beaufort Lodge members presented a \$2000.00 donation as part of the Beacon Grant to the Cricket II to provide fuel and free fishing adventures for the disabled and combat-wounded veterans. The Cricket II, the "JAW'S" Boat, is the only boat in this area that is modified and equipped with a wheelchair lift and electronic fishing poles to assist the disabled.

Pictured are (from left) Elk member Ray Boulanger; Leading Knight Kent Neal, Elk member Joel Apraham; and Joe Dibella, the Captain of Cricket II.



SHALLOTTE ELKS DONATE TO “SCIENCE IS ELEMENTARY”

The Shallotte Elks Lodge donated \$560 to purchase supplies for The Science is Elementary Program (SiE). The Science is Elementary program started last year in a couple of elementary schools and in some libraries in Brunswick County. It was very well accepted and is being expanded this year. The program is for grades K through 5th grade. The Shallotte Lodge is proud to help sponsor this valuable educational program for the students of Brunswick County.



Pictured L-R; Secretary/Treasurer Carolyn Garramone; SiE Director Rick Espinoza; and Leading Knight John O’lear.

SHALLOTTE LODGE AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Shallotte Elks Lodge has awarded two scholarships to outstanding students in our area.

Pictured on the left is Exalted Ruler Susan Berardi with student Alexuz Barnes a graduate of South Columbus High School. Pictured on the right is Secretary/Treasurer Carolyn Garramone; Student Margie Steve; and Leading Knight John O’Lear. Ms. Steve will be attending the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill for Nursing and eventually Doctoral studies. Both these students received a \$500 Scholarship to further their education.



CALABASH LODGE DONATES REFRIGERATORS FOR VETERANS TINY HOME PROJECT



The Calabash Elks Veterans Affairs Committee recently purchased and donated 10 Mini-refrigerators to the Veterans Welcome Home Resource Center, Hutton Reintegration House for their tiny home project for homeless Veterans. A village of tiny homes is being built in Myrtle Beach to assist with the reintegration of Veterans into the community. Previously the Elks Lodge made a donation for the construction of one of the tiny houses

MOREHEAD CITY/BEAUFORT LODGE DONATES TO DOMESTICE VIOLENCE PROGRAM

Morehead City/Beaufort Elks Lodge #1710 donated \$1500.00 from the Charitable Trust Grant to benefit the Carteret County Domestic Violence Program. The Carteret County Domestic Violence Program provides direct services to approximately 300 men, women and children each year. These monies will be used to help eliminate the cycle of abuse, provide individual counseling, court advocacy, and days of safe shelter for families and children in our community.

Pictured L-R; Exalted Ruler John Goodman; Josie Arroyo of CCDVP; Lodge member PFL Lisa Delzer, and Grant Coordinator Diane Apraham.



MOREHEAD CITY BEAUFORT DONATES TO FOOD PANTRY



Morehead City/Beaufort Lodge used a portion of the Beacon Grant to provide a donation of \$1,000.00 to Martha's Mission. Martha's Mission is a local non-profit food pantry run by volunteers. These funds will be used to restock the shelves and assist in maintaining the homeless shelter and less fortunate in our community.

Pictured L-R; employee Joanna Broadhurst; Lodge Grant Coordinator Diane Apraham; Founder Martha Bell,; PFL Lisa Delzer and PSP Ron Delzer, Lodge Secretary.

OAK ISLAND LODGE HELPS DIXIE YOUTH TEAM FUNDRAISER

The Youth Activities Committee was blessed to help the boys Town Creek Dixie Youth 12U All-Star team with their fundraising efforts on Saturday July 22nd, 2023. The team held a lemonade fundraiser & raffle in front of the Oak Island Elks Lodge. This event was to help fund their trip to play in the 2023 Dixie Youth World Series in Ruston, Louisiana July 27-31, 2023. A big congratulations to all of the Brunswick County teams who will be playing in the 2023 Dixie Youth World Series!



Lockwood Folly 12U Team Members pictured: Brantlee Whitaker, Bryson Willard, Chase Shrewsbury. Also pictured Nataly Covington - Youth Activities Chair with Oak Island Town Council Member Bill Craft

MOREHEAD CITY BEAUFORT LODGE HOLDING CHARITY FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT VETERANS

Attendees are in for an evening of entertainment and charitable giving as the Morehead City Beaufort Lodge announces its upcoming charity fundraiser.

The free event will take place from 5-10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12 and will feature live music from Motherload and Velvet Allstars.

Included in the festivities will be a military show paying homage to veterans and a Jeep show showcasing rugged vehicles.

Guests can also partake in raffles and various activities throughout the evening.

For those with an appetite, food options such as hot dogs, tacos, corn on the cob, chips, beer, wine, soda and water will be available for purchase.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will be directed toward supporting local veterans, shelters, homeless individuals and those in need within the community.

 **MOREHEAD CITY / BEAUFORT
ELKS LODGE #1710**
is hosting a Charity Fundraiser

PAYING IT FORWARD

400 MILLER FARM RD • MOREHEAD CITY, NC 28557

Live Bands featuring
MOTHERLOAD • VELVET ALLSTARS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12TH from 5-10PM
MILITARY / JEEP SHOW, RAFFLES *and more!*

FREE ADMISSION

HOT DOGS, PORK/CHICKEN TACOS, CORN ON THE COB, CHIPS,
BEER, WINE, SODA AND WATER WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.
(No outside alcohol may be brought on premises)

The Elks are 100% Voluntary and ALL PROCEEDS from this event will be used to
Support our VETERANS, SHELTERS, HOMELESS and
The Less Fortunate in our community.

News from the East Central District



RALEIGH HONORS HEROES, WITH FLAGS

The Raleigh Elks, in collaboration with The Rotary Club of North Raleigh introduced "Flags for our Heroes" The flags were in honor of anyone's hero, including a family member, teacher, military hero, first responders and frontline healthcare workers. Each flag displayed a medallion with the name of the purchaser's hero, for them to keep. This memorial project will continue through future Flag Days.

More than 150 Flags were displayed on the Raleigh Elks grounds and were highly visible to passing motorists, from Memorial Day, May 27th through Flag Day, June 14th.

The team, pictured L-R; John Vandergast, Gary Bush, ER, Dean Schaeffer, PER, Antoine Smith, Bo Williams, Michelle DeLaire, PER and Lance McCullough. Missing, Nate Cobb



RALEIGH ELKS DONATE TO “HOPE REINS”

One of the many charity recipients of The Raleigh Elks October Golf Tournament was Hope Reins. This program, started in 2010, helps NC kids, ages 5-18 who are going through a variety of life crises and is free of charge. It is located on a 33 acre ranch with rescued horses, known for comfort. Hope Reins is made possible by generous donations!

Pictured is Bill Carrington-Smith presenting a Check for \$450 to Brandon Wert of Hope Reins.



ROXBORO ELKS HOLD SOCCER SHOOT

On Saturday July 15th, the Roxboro Elks held its 2nd annual Soccer Shoot. Lodge members that helped were Lisa Parrish, Amanda Goedert, John Bullock, Brian Horner, Kyle Puryear, John Evans and Derrick Sims. We had 27 contestants. We scheduled the event to coincide with the Roxboro Parks and Recreation Department soccer skills day. The contestants' ages range from 7 and under to 13 years old. If we have enough lodges to participate in a soccer shoot this year, we will have our state championships in November. Contestants that come in 1st place in state will have the opportunity to go to Florida for the regional finals in January 2024. This is a new contest that we are trying to get started throughout the state. Soccer is a growing sport for all ages. Anyone interested in holding a Soccer Shoot at your lodge contact Derrick Sims -State Youth Activities Chairman.



News from the West Central District

SALISBURY ELKS SERVE LUNCH TO VETERANS HOME



Led by ER Kenny Martin, a group of six Elks served lunch to employees and residents at the NC Veterans Home in Salisbury. About 90 people were served chicken, BBQ, baked beans, hush puppies, slaw, desserts and tea.

Lets never forget our veterans and those who care for them.

HIGH POINT SUPPORTS

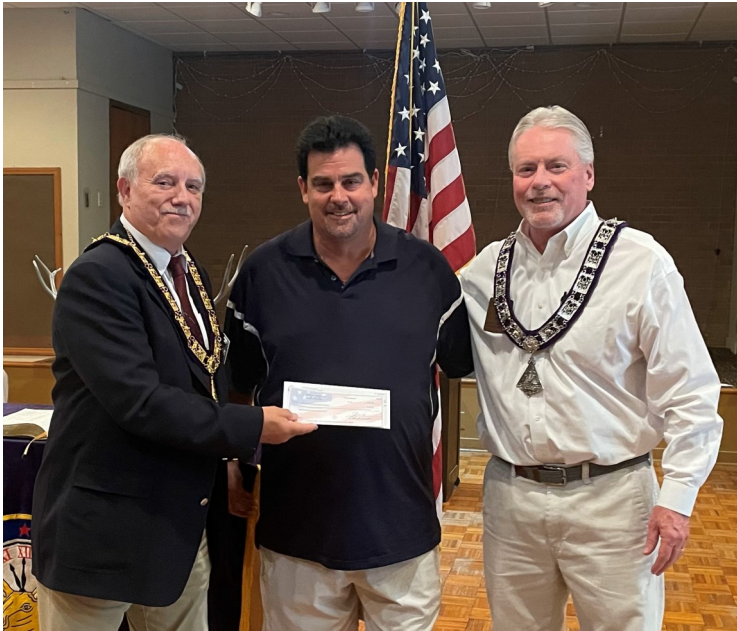
“COMMUNITY COLLABERATION FOR CHILDREN”



The High Point Lodge used their ENF Gratitude Grant to support the Community Collaboration for Children, a non profit in High Point.

They specialize in coordinating resources for children affected by violence and/or poverty. ER Richard Golden is pictured presenting the grant check to their Executive Director and Program Administrator.

HIGH POINT ELKS DONATE TO “COMMUNITY AGAINST VIOLENCE”



The High Point Lodge used their \$1,500 NC Charitable Trust Grant for the nonprofit High Point Community Against Violence (CAV).

Pictured, left to right, are our ER Richie Golden; Lodge member and Executive Director of CAV, Robert Martin; and NC Charitable Trust President, Phil Driscoll.

HIGH POINT LODGE PROVIDES VETERAN WITH WELCOME HOME KIT

The High Point Lodge Veterans Committee has provided another veteran with a Welcome Home Kit. These kits are for veterans who are transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing and provide basic items to get them started in their new home. The lodge has provided 20 kits to veterans over the past year.





SALISBURY ELKS SALUTE FLAG DAY

The Salisbury Elks Lodge 699 held its annual Flag Day Ceremony at the NC State Veterans Home on Sunday, June 11. Although the observance of National Flag Day is June 14, the Elks hosted the event over the weekend to allow more people to attend. About 35 guests were present including local veterans, staff, and Elks' members.

Kenny Martin, the Elks Exalted Ruler, and other lodge officers, led the hourlong service which featured the presentation of nine American flags, the history, patriotic songs, and a passionate keynote address from 92-year-old Salisbury native, Harry Agner. Both Agner and Martin are veterans. Martin is a retired 1st Sergeant and served for 32 years with the NC Army National Guard. Agner joined the Army after graduating high school. He spent 23 years in the military, most of it with the North Carolina National Guard

"I love our flag with all my heart," said Agner, "and everything it stands for." Agner has been member of the Elks for 65 years.

He reflected on what the flag means to him during his address. Like the BPOE, Agner holds the flag to its highest honor and respect. The core principles of charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity symbolize the significance of the flag to the Order.

"It was emotional and very uplifting," said Martin. "The flag has special meaning to our veterans who are grateful and proud. For the people who had never attended a Flag Day ceremony, they loved it. There were not many dry eyes during the service especially when Harry was speaking."



Kenny Martin (left) and Kirk Deal (right), Officers of Salisbury Elks Lodge led the Flag Day Ceremony on Sunday, June 11. Veteran and Elks member, Harry Agner (center), gave the keynote address.



HIGH POINT MAKES DONATION TO HEROES CENTER

The Heroes Center of High Point was the recipient of our \$4,000 Beacon Grant.

The Heroes Center is a faith-based 501c3 that provides all Veterans with the necessary resources to successfully transition into civilian life. We address the tough issues facing Veterans such as transitional housing, job placement and the challenges of connecting in community.

Pictured L-R; is Grant Coordinator, Phil Driscoll; Heroes Center Director, Patrick Davis; and ER Richard Golden. Also, pictured is the veterans home that needs repair, and this grant will help with those expenses.



WINSTON SALEM ELKS DONATE TO VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM



Winston Salem Elks Lodge presented a \$3,000 Gratitude Grant check to Winston Salem Forsyth County School's Visual Arts program that encompasses grades K-12. Funding will go towards art supplies (painting, clay, drawing, etc.), auditorium lights, sound equipment and musical instruments.

Pictured: Andrew Craft, Director of K-12 Arts Education, Forsyth County Schools; Randy Zigmund, Grant Coordinator, WS Elks Lodge.

WINSTON SALEM LODGE HOSTS FLAG DAY CEREMONY

Winston-Salem Elks Lodge hosted their annual Flag Day Ritual Ceremony on Monday, June 12th, in the atrium at the Lodge. The posting of the "Colors" was performed by the VFW Memorial Honor Guard Post 9010, Clemmons, NC.

We followed the Grand Lodge format with the Flag Day Retirement Ceremony, featuring patriotic songs and music with 35 persons in attendance. Picture: L-R: Mark Kozlowski, ER; VFW Honor Guard; Randy Zigmund, Flag Day Chairman.



SALISBURY LODGE AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Salisbury Elks Lodge No. 699 selected six local high school seniors to receive college scholarships starting in the fall of 2023. The Elks National Most Valuable Student Contest awarded two \$1,000 scholarships. The local Elks Lodge also provided four \$1,000 scholarships via the Don Stout Memorial Scholarship Fund.



Sarah Van Horn



Kayla Anderson

Sarah Van Horn and Kyla Anderson each received \$1000 from the Most Valuable Student contest



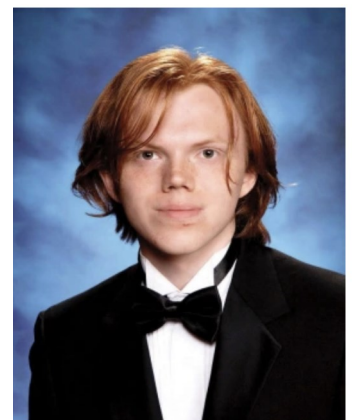
Jeredine Sumo



Nathaniel Schaffer



Casey Crawford



Luke Smith

Jeredine Sumo, Nathaniel Schaffer, Casey Crawford, and Luke Smith each received \$1000 via the Don Stout Memorial Scholarship Fund.

News from the West District

HICKORY LODGE RECOGNIZED

NC CIVIL AIR PATROL AND JROTC MEMBERS



The Lodge recognized Cadet Captain John Goncalves of the North Carolina Civil Air Patrol. His performance as a Flight Ranger Commander resulted in his selection to serve on the Executive Cadet Staff as Deputy Commander of Operations. He completed Cadet Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base and received the Wing Cadet Honor Support Staff award for his commitment to duty.

The Lodge recognized Cadet Lieutenant Commander Harlan Sterling for serving his JROTC unit with honor. Cadet Sterling distinguished himself, serving as Commanding Officer, Drill Team Commander, and Color Team member.



MORGANTON LODGE PRESENTS QUILT TO VETERAN



The Morganton Lodge presented a quilt, from the Burke Quilters Guild, to Mr. James Smith who is from Valdese. Mr. Smith was raised on a farm with 9 siblings. He served with the US Army in Vietnam in combat in 1968. He was thrilled to receive the quilt. Thank you Mr. Smith for your service.

HICKORY LODGE PARTICIPATES IN HELPING HANDS PROGRAM

For the past 18 years the Hickory Elks Lodge has been participating in the monthly Helping Hands program, in a rotating partnership with local area churches. They prepare and serve warm, healthy meals to the city's less fortunate on Sundays when the local soup Kitchen is closed. Since the start of the program the Lodge has put over 53,000 meals, including to-go plates and take home bags, into the community to serve the homeless, unemployed, and fixed income seniors who may not otherwise have access to a warm meal over the weekend.



Front row: Jay Tate; Tracey Gantt; Erica Hoyle; Brook Hoyle; Vicki Bryant; Elaine Bost-Driscoll; Art Drumheller, director of program for 18 years; back row: Michael Bryant & Gary Gantt.

HICKORY ELKS HELP VETERANS CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY



The Hickory Lodge celebrated our nation's independence with the Veterans at Black Mountain State Veterans Home! The Hickory Elks Lodge provided music with our own Joe Elko, and provided BBQ and sides by Elks: Chuck Crawford and Tom McNair.

Pictured serving the veterans Carole Anderson; Karl Kuehn; Samantha Bowman; Mary Elko; ER Cary Bowman; Linda Dodson; Joe Elko; Patti Brown; Blake Watts; and Kevin McCutcheon.

Elks Volunteer Service representative to the home supplied the veterans with lotions, shampoos, hats, sweatpants, and electric razors. We were happy to be able to help.

ASHEVILLE ELKS DONATE TO “IN REAL LIFE” AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

The Asheville Lodge donated their \$4000 Beacon Grant to the "In Real Life" afterschool program for 11 to 14 year olds, of Asheville City School Foundation. The program introduces the kids to various life learning activities and professions.

Pictured L-R; Board Members: Jack Hewatt; Maureen Weineman; Gregory Hall, IRL Director; Christine Hyde, grant writer; Elks: Brenda Gramling; Mary Richards; and students of the In Real Life program.



ASHEVILLE LODGE DONATES TO VETERANS RESTORATIVE QUARTERS

The Asheville Lodge donated \$2000 from the Gratitude Grant to the Veteran Restorative Quarters of Asheville. Money for the food pantry to feed the 200 homeless vets that live at this facility.

Presenting the check (L—R center) ER Mitch McCann; Reverend Scott Rogers Executive Director; Christine Hyde, grant writer.



ASHEVILLE ELKS DONATE TO ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOL FOUNDATION



Asheville Elks donated their \$2000 Spotlight Grant to Asheville City School Foundation Emergency Assistance Fund to help families in need of food and fuel.

Left to right: Rebecca Abide; Copland Rudolph, Executive Director; Christine Hyde, grant writer; Maureen Weinman, boardmember.

HICKORY LODGE PRESENTS PATRIOT OF THE YEAR AWARD

2023 Patriot of the Year

Captain Donald F. Smith United States Marine Corps, (Retired)

On this day, June 14, 2023, the Hickory Elks Lodge 1654 recognizes Capt Don Smith for exemplifying the tenets of DUTY-HONOR-COUNTRY in selfless service to our nation and community. Joining the United States Marine Corps in 1951, Don was assigned to the 1st Marine Division and participated in combat operations in the Republic of Korea. He then served in a variety of duties, to include the Honor Guard to President Eisenhower, Platoon Sergeant, Recruiter and Drill Instructor. As a Gunnery Sergeant, he again deployed to combat operations, this time in the Republic of Vietnam, where he received a commission to 2nd Lieutenant. Following retirement from military service, Capt Smith followed his motto that, “if you rest, you rust,” returning to North Carolina where he continued to work in the wood and furniture business, and volunteering as a coach for youth football, little league baseball and High School basketball. He has also served his community as the Director for Toys for Tots, as the president of the Marine Corps League and as the Joe Foss Foundation Chairman. Additionally, he orchestrates and participates in countless funerals, flag raising and Color Guard services for our Veterans and the local community. Captain Smith’s actions both as a Marine and as a servant to our community are in keeping with the highest traditions of Naval Service, and he embodies the true spirit of Americanism and Patriotism, bringing great credit upon himself, his family, his community, the United States Marine Corps and the United States of America.



Presenting award are Tracy Hentschel, Americanism, committee chair, and Elk Member Kevin McCutcheon

HICKORY ELKS ASSIST VETERANS WITH WELCOME HOME KITS

The Hickory Elks lodge was happy to reach out to local Marine Veteran Harry Odum. Mr. Odum was referred to us by Veterans Services of the Carolinas. The Elks provided a bed and household goods with our Welcome Home Kit Program.

Pictured, Lodge ER Cary Bowman; Veterans Committee Chairperson Samantha Bowman; and Marine Veteran Harry Odum.



The Hickory Elks once again were happy to assist an area veteran. Veteran Dennis Hunter was recently down on his luck. The Elks Lodge Helping Hands Sunday Soup kitchen coordinator Art Drumheller reached out to us after connecting with Dennis at the soup kitchen. The Elks lodge helped him get a fresh start by providing a Welcome Home Kit with basic household necessities for his new home.

Pictured Elk and Veteran, Charlie Self; Veteran Dennis Hunter; Elk Program Coordinator Art Drumheller; and Veterans Committee chairperson, Samantha Bowman .

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