

North
Carolina



December January 2025

**LEADERSHIP
TRAINING**



**Make plans for all incoming Officers to attend the
upcoming Leadership Training session
at the Winston Salem Lodge on
Saturday February 22nd.**

Details on page 4



Message from State President Joe Clancy

As I begin writing this Letter, I hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas Holiday and spent time with family and friends. As we moved into January, all Lodges should be preparing for the upcoming Elks year with nominations of your Lodge Officers in January and elections in February. This is also the opportunity to get new members involved in the organization. There are members who may have different ideas for your Lodge that could help grow your Lodge. Your current ER and Officers should be focused on wrapping up this current year's activities and looking back on the year and recognize both those members and members of your community who have stood out and present them with one of the many awards available to a Lodge. The available awards are Officer of the Year, Elk of the Year, Citizen of the Year, GER Outstanding Service Award and GER Making a Difference Award.

January also brings our annual Hoop Shoot contest. I hope every Lodge will conduct a local Hoop Shoot Contest. The winners from the individual Lodges will compete in the District contest in early February and the District winners will compete at the State contest on 8 February 2025 in Greensboro.

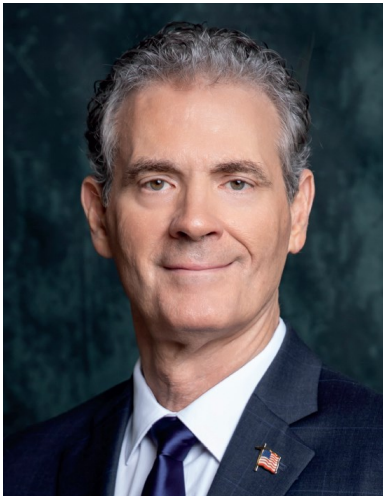
We have scheduled our Leadership Training for Saturday, 22 February 2025 from 10:00 to 3:00 at the Winston Salem Lodge. This is a great opportunity for all Elks interested in knowing more about our Order. This is not just for Lodge Officers, so come out and learn a little bit about who the Elks are. There is more information on the event on our website, www.ncelks.org. It has been 4 months since Hurricane Helene devastated the Western part of North Carolina. As I stated in the last newsletter, the Elks in North Carolina provided supplies, thousands of meals to many communities as they continue to rebuild their lives. Be assured we have not stopped and will not stop assisting the people of North Carolina. Our State Disaster Relief committee has done an amazing job of pivoting with the ever-changing needs in the area. They continue to meet regularly and assessing the needs and help were possible.

The Convention Committee is continuing to meet and plan for our Spring Conference in Winston Salem on May 2nd to 4th at the Hawthorne Hotel. We will be hosting the State Presidents and their wives from Virginia and South Carolina. During the Spring Conference your new State Officers will be installed including our new State President Mark Couch from the Hickory Lodge. Look for more details to follow on our website. Plan to attend the State Conference, this is another opportunity to learn more about the Elks and meet other Elks from other Lodges across the State. I hope to see you there!

Membership continues to be the life blood of our organization. Over the last 2 months we have brought in 147 new members, bringing our total new members for the year to 940. We lost an additional 41 members, bringing our total up for the year to 467 members. We have reduced our delinquent membership by 63 but we still have 1,036 delinquent members. This leaves us short of our goal of a plus one membership by 563 members, which is down from 2 months ago. We still have 111 candidates waiting to be initiated. Let's not leave these new members waiting too long. Get them initiated and get them involved. I continue to challenge each Lodge to personally call each of your delinquent members and ask them why they have not paid their dues. What did we do wrong, what did we stop doing, that may have caused them to leave us. Remind them of all the great charitable things we are doing in your community and without their dues it becomes a real challenge to continue these events. Membership is everyone's responsibility. Let's push hard in the last two months and finish strong with our fourth gain in membership in a row!

In Closing, I want to remind everyone of my slogan this year TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE!! I challenged each Lodge to do one new activity this year to help strengthen our presence in our communities and show everyone that the Elks are a group of people that want to give back to our community and make them better.

Fraternally, Joe Clancy, State President



Message from Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas Schiefer

POSITIVE ENERGY HELPS NEW OFFICERS GET SETTLED

Happy birthday to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks! On February 16, we celebrate 157 years of our great organization. On a personal note, my birthday is February 14. I wish everyone a happy Valentine's Day, especially my beautiful and amazing wife, Julia. This month is extremely important for Elkdom. First, new Officer elections should be held at your last monthly meeting. Second, you need to make sure those who are nominated and elected for the new Lodge year will be supported. The new Officers must be encouraged by others. Everyone should be dedicated to making the Lodge an active and effective Lodge internally and externally in the community. It would be a good time for the current Exalted Ruler to recognize any Member who sponsored or reinstated three Members by awarding them with the Grand Exalted Ruler pin. Please check out the activities program supported by the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee on other awards that Exalted Rulers can submit. It's time to recognize and encourage those who have shown a great deal of effort and dedication to what we do as Elks. February is an important month for Past Exalted Rulers to perform the ritual during their Lodges' Past Exalted Rulers Night. PERs deserve to be thanked for all they have done and for what they continue to do for your Lodge. The Contest 'A' - All American Lodge Contest certification forms are due soon, so it's a good time to get prepared to show the efforts you have made during the last year. It takes teamwork to achieve this very prestigious award. Honestly, most Lodges would qualify but don't fill out the form properly. It is important to score your efforts on the form provided. It's a great way for your Lodge to keep track of what you need to be doing. If you need assistance, contact your local area Fraternal Committee member. There are three winners named in each of the six membership divisions. Why not take the time to plan now and submit your form before the deadline. Be sure to include supporting documentation. You deserve to be recognized. Continue to demonstrate "Elks Care—Elks Share" and show "Elkdom's Heart For America." God bless our great Order and our troops, and God bless America.



Elkdom's Heart for America

LEADERSHIP TRAINING



WINSTON SALEM ELKS LODGE #449

2585 GRIFFITH ROAD

WINSTON SALEM, NC 27103

(336) 768-0222

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2025

10:00AM – 3:00PM

What you will learn:

- BPOE Statutes
- Officer Responsibilities
- Lodge Committees
- Best Practices
- Elks Resources
- Networking
- And More!

Lunch will be served - \$10 per person



SCAN QR CODE TO RSVP BY FEBRUARY 14TH
TO ENSURE YOU HAVE A MEAL!

Contributions for Hurricane Helene Recovery Needs Continue

The destructive nature of Hurricane Helene, which hit western North Carolina on September 27 and 28, 2024, was unique to the region and unprecedented. The damage was of a nature never before seen in the area. The recovery process will not be short-term but will take years to complete. However, short-term needs must be met immediately and continually reevaluated.

The outpouring of support has been tremendous, and that support continues as the needs of those unfortunate citizens in the affected area continue. However, those needs constantly change and have already gone through multiple phases. The need also changes rapidly based on the season, weather, etc. More than 3,000 families are still in hotels, and more than that are still in tents, RVs, or other temporary structures. Local municipalities and counties have relaxed temporary housing ordinances to accommodate the placement of structures for use by those displaced due to the loss of their homes. Those who are displaced still need essential goods to sustain them.

Due to the rapidly changing needs in devastated areas, the North Carolina State Elks Association Disaster Relief Committee is asking for monetary donations rather than goods. This will allow us to quickly meet the ever-changing needs based on those specific needs as they change.

Any donation is very much appreciated and can be sent to,

H. Lee Littiken, Chairman

NCSEA Disaster Relief Committee

PO Box 1781

Sanford NC 27331

Checks should be made payable to the NCSEA Disaster Relief Committee.

Thank you to all the North Carolina Lodges that have worked so hard to provide for those in need and to those lodges that are continuing their efforts. Some lodges are currently providing manpower to repair and rebuild damaged structures. Others are still providing desperately needed goods and gift cards for fuel so families can stay warm, while others are providing hot meals.

We are genuinely exemplifying the motto “Elks Care Elks Share”.



HELP SUPPORT NCSEA MAJOR PROJECT
PROCEEDS GO TO
"CAMP CAREFREE"

CAMP CAREFREE



Mardi Gras
GALA

SATURDAY MARCH 1ST

Greensboro Elks Lodge #602 2201 W. Cornwallis Drive

Tickets \$25



Camp
Carefree

Doors 6:30PM
Dinner 7PM
Music 8PM

Music By **THE FABULOUS FLASHBACKS**

FOR TICKETS OR SPONSORSHIP PLEASE CALL 336-686-4786



Mark your calendar!!!

**The Spring meeting of the NCSEA Will be held in
Winston Salem at the Hawthorne Inn May 2nd—4th.**

**Plan now to spend the weekend and take in all the
convention activities and all that Winston Salem has to offer.**

**Registration for the conference and golf tournament
will be available at ncelks.org**



PAST EXALTED RULER



REMEMBER TO ATTEND THE PAST EXALTED RULERS
AUCTION, SATURDAY AFTERNOON

May 3rd 3:30 PM

AT THE SPRING NCSEA CONFERENCE

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

RITUAL CONTESTS

Start practicing now!!!

At the Spring meeting in Winston Salem, 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 Kansas City.

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



UPDATE FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

North Carolina had 604 Most Valuable Student applications via the Elks National Foundation. Judging for these applicants by ENF will conclude in April, 2025; North Carolina is awarded seven ENF winners. These awards range from \$1,000 per year to \$7,500 per year for the four-year college enrollment. We are happy to report that every lodge in N. C. was represented in the National MVS arena! As you are aware the North Carolina State Scholarship Committee awards our own Most Valuable Student Scholarships through the ENF National MVS applications. We will award 20 young women and 20 young men a one-time \$1,000 scholarship. North Carolina State Elks also awards 10 one-time \$1,000 Nursing Scholarships. Our nursing scholarship program was enhanced this year as far as applying for the scholarship. Nursing Scholarship Applications as well as required supporting documentation were submitted completely on-line. We had 44 students apply for our Nursing Scholarships compared to 21 last year and 12 the prior year. The winners for our local MVS scholarships and Nursing scholarships will be announced late March 2025. Thank you to all who had a hand in promoting both the Elks National MVS Scholarships and our State Scholarships! The North Carolina State Elks Association alone awards \$50,000 annually to deserving N. C. high school seniors. Scholarships is a huge North Carolina Elks project and indeed a huge commitment to our communities and should be shared freely in your areas. And last, the ENF Legacy (Scholarship) Award is promoted in the local lodges. While the Legacy Award application deadline is February 3, 2025, this is a great scholarship opportunity to research if you have children or grandchildren to include step-children, step-grandchildren or legal custody. More information can be found at <https://www.elks.org/scholars/scholarships/Legacy.cfm>.

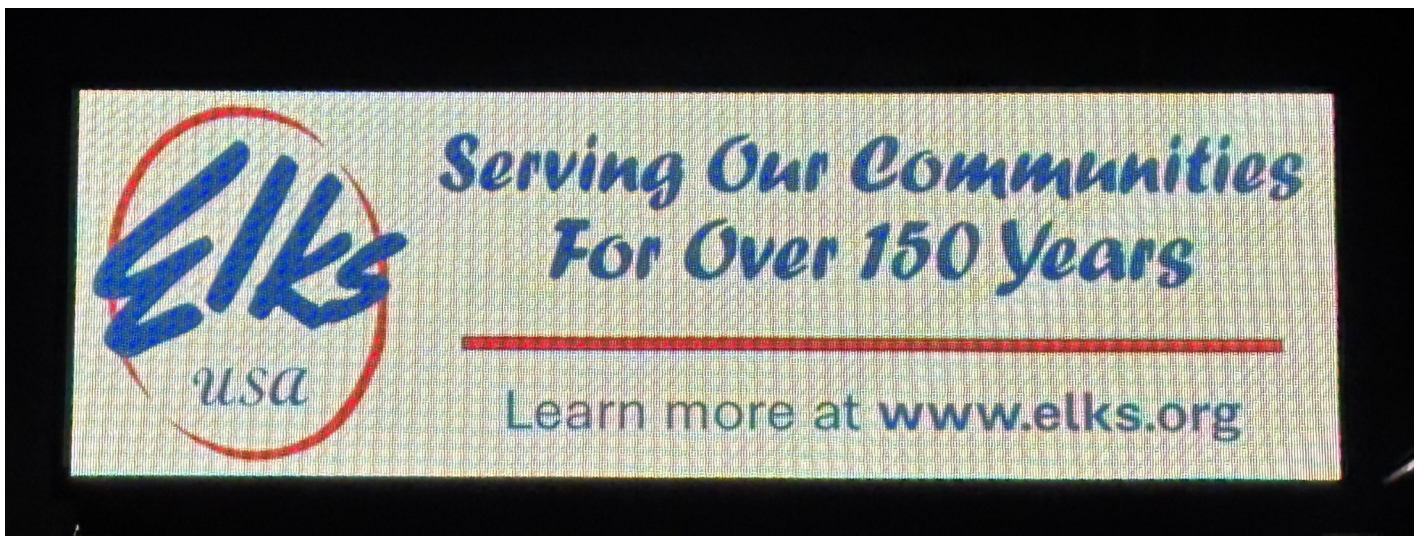
Bruce Kinnaman



BILLBOARDS PROVIDE LODGES WITH POSITIVE PR



Recently East District Vice President Roger Deputy worked with a local billboard company to place the above sign, at no cost, on digital billboards in Southeastern North Carolina. The billboards are located on main roads near the Lodges in Calabash, Oak Island, Shalotte, and Wilmington. The sign is on a rotating schedule with other advertisers and is visible for 4.5 seconds. The pictures were taken on highway 17 near the Calabash Lodge.



EAST DISTRICT NEWS

OAK ISLAND ELKS PARTNERS WITH “WAVES FOR K.I.D.S.”

Last year Oak Island Elks Lodge 2769 was able to partner with WAVES 4 KIDS and use a North Carolina Charitable Trust Endowment grant to provide Holiday gift cards to children in Brunswick County. The Lodge was excited to be able to provide the cards again this year. WAVES 4 K.I.D.S. (Kids In Difficult Situations) helps kids under the care of the Brunswick County Department of Social Services by providing resources and services not available through public funds.

Left to right accepting the gift cards are Jan Britt (WAVES), John Waters (WAVES), Terry O’Toole (Elks), Dave Tien (WAVES), Carolyn Prevette (Elks), Laura Temples (Elks)



CALABASH ELKS DONATE TO PROVIDENCE HOME



The Calabash Elks Lodge recently donated \$1,000 to The Providence Home in Southport, NC to help support their short-term shelter for youth who, due to an emergency, high-risk or crisis situation, cannot remain with their families. Pictured L-R; PER Juanita Adams; Warren Mortley, Director of the Providence Home; and Leading Knight Donald Arsenault.

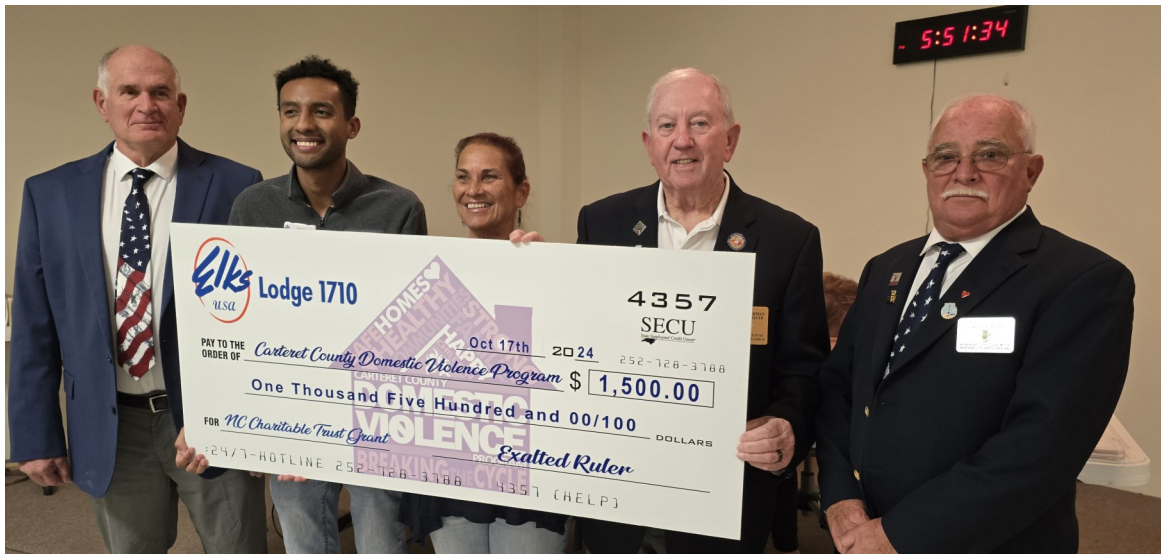
MOREHEAD CITY ELKS PARTICIPATE IN VETERANS PARADE

Morehead City/Beaufort Elks Lodge 1710 participated in the Carteret County Veterans Parade on November 9th with Elroy (Lisa Delzer) handing out candy and Hoop Director Jack Hager distributing Hoop Shoot pamphlets to the kids along the route.



MOREHEAD CITY LODGE DONATES TO CARTERET COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Morehead City/Beaufort Elks #1710 Presented a \$1,500.00 check to Carteret County Domestic Violence at our Bingo night in November. It was well received by the Bingo players. Showing them that Elks Care & Elks Share. Lodge Officers presenting the check.



MOREHEAD CITY DONATES TO FAMILY PROMISE

The Morehead City Lodge presented a check for \$1,000.00 to Family Promise on Dec 3rd before Bingo . Sandra Hewitt gave the Bingo players a foresight of what Family Promise does for Carteret County.

Left to right. Loyal Knight Jack Hager, Sandra Hewitt of Family Promise, Leading Knight Frank Sutton and Grant Coordinator Lecturing Knight Diane Abraham.



CALABASH ELKS DONATE TO BRUNSWICK FAMILY ASSISTANCE

The Calabash Elks lodge recently donated \$2,500 to The Brunswick Family Assistance. The Brunswick Family Assistance is one of the leading programs in Brunswick County offering a wide range of services, including food, housing, utility assistance, and Summer Food programs for children in need.

Pictured L-R: PER Juanita Adams; Kyle Abrams Executive Director, Brunswick Family Assistance; and Calabash Elks Trustee Mark Kerr.



SHALLOTTE ELKS CONTRIBUTE TO BRUNSWICK FAMILY ASSISTANCE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



The Shallotte Elks #2854 made a \$2,000 contribution to Brunswick Family Assistance for their Christmas Program.

Pictured are Elks Secretary Carolyn Garramone, Kyle Abrams, Exec. Director of BFA, Elks Trustee Paul Salerno and Elk Stephanie Hovermale.

The Elks worked with BFA, other partners and the Literacy Council to package up food, toys and books for Christmas. Bags were prepared for 1800 children and seniors. Many bags were taken to the Leland location for distribution there.

Pictured helping are Sallyjune Kuka, Paul Salerno and Stephanie Hovermale



CALABASH, SHALLOTTE, & OAK ISLAND LODGES

TEAM UP FOR HOOP SHOOT

Elks Lodges in Calabash, Shallotte, and Oak Island recently held a Hoop Shoot at the Shallotte Middle School. A total of 13 participants showed up to demonstrate their skills at free throws.



CALABASH ELKS DONATE TO FOOD PANTRY



The Calabash Elks Lodge recently donated \$1,000 to The Lords Food Pantry in Shallotte. This organization's mission is to improve the quality of life for Brunswick County community by meeting basic human needs. Every Saturday SBIC provides at least three days of food and basic personal items through The Lords Food Pantry, a designated Healthy Food Pantry by the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC, and an all-volunteer organization from area churches.

Pictured below (left to right); Gary Reynolds, Calabash Elks Exalted Ruler; Mike and Debbie Claxton, Food pantry managers.

OAK ISLAND LODGE PARTICIPATES IN PEARL HARBOR CEREMONY

Oak Island Lodge and VFW Post 10226 recently commemorated the anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack. The Oak Island Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance was held Saturday, Dec. 7th, at the end of Oak Island Pier, on the 83rd anniversary of Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The unprovoked bombing led to the United States officially entering World War II. Guest speakers included the Oak Island Mayor and former VFW commander. A bagpipes rendition of "Taps" was performed at the end of the ceremony as attendees dropped carnations into the ocean to honor the lives lost on Dec. 7, 1941. Many Lodge members attended this solemn ceremony, including Veterans Committee members pictured (from left) Carl Schnepf, George Tietjen, Rich Ewing, Ed Drzewiecki, and Kevin Swenie.



SHALLOTTE LODGE CONTRIBUTES TO CHRISTIAN RECOVERY CENTER



The Shallotte Elks made a contribution to Christian Recovery Centers. The Elks have been supporting BCRC and then CRCI since 2021.

They have an ongoing commitment to providing comprehensive care free of charge to recovered alcoholics and addicts for up to 24 months .

Pictured are David Koch, CRCI Dir of Operations; Eric Machado, CRCI Reentry Coordinator; Carolyn Garramone Lodge Secretary; and Taylor Murphy, CRCI Dir of Development at Grants Harbor.

SHALLOTTE LODGE SUPPORTS

“WARM HOMES—WARM HEARTS”

The Shallotte Elks Lodge supported Warm Homes/Warm Hearts through Brunswick Electric Membership Corp (BEMC). BEMC then matches donations received to assist customers during the colder winter months. Another long time beneficiary of the Elks, we have supported this charity since 2017.

Pictured are Frank Burgess, Lecturing Knight; Griff Sperry, Exalted Ruler,; Brooks Versaggi, BEMC Manager of Member Engagement and Communications; and Elk Trustee Paul Salerno.



OAK ISLAND LODGE USES GRANT TO BUY COATS FOR NEEDY STUDENTS



In 2018 Exalted Ruler Keven Fogarty got a \$2,000 Beacon Grant and bought coats and hygiene items for needy Brunswick County students working with Community in Schools (CIS). Today the tradition continues, and this year the lodge was awarded \$4,000 and able to purchase 177 jackets and over 600 hygiene items.

Pictured below are Elk Michael Lyons; Elk Cheryl Colella-Gehrke; Mallory Wells with Community in Schools; and Elk Glenda Dennis with some of the jackets.

CALABASH LODGE DONATES TO PROJECT LIFESAVER

The Veteran's Affairs Committee of the Calabash Elks Lodge recently made a \$2,000.00 donation to the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office in support of their "Project Lifesaver," a rescue program for individuals with "Wandering Syndrome," a symptom common to many brain related disorders. Veterans, if eligible, are serviced by this program.



Pictured (Left to Right), - Elk members Andy Turlington and Ray Crawford; Project Lifesaver representative BCSO Deputy Sheriff Bryant Holden; Veterans Committee Chairman John Corbett; and Project Lifesaver representative BCSO 1st Sgt TK Howell.

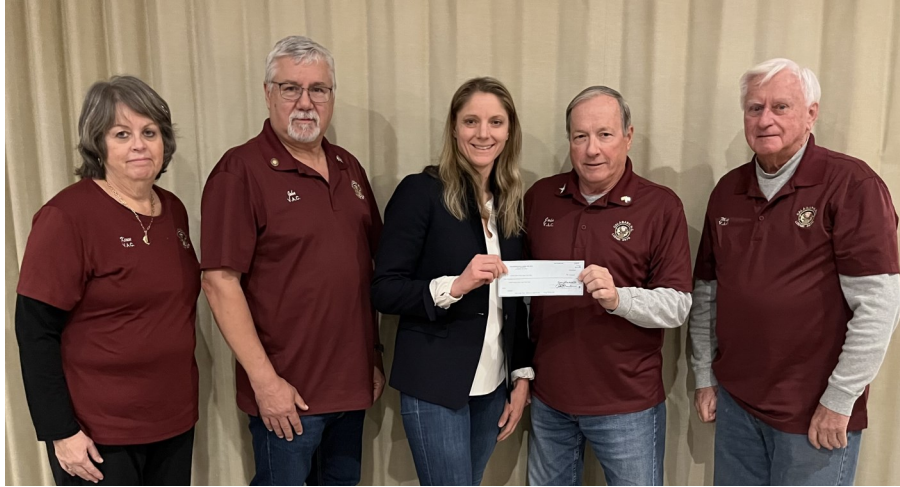
SHALLOTTE ELKS SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD BANKS

Since 2016 the Elks have been providing food assistance to the community by providing bags of food for either Easter or during the Fall holidays to Food Banks and then later making monetary contributions to the Lord's Pantry/South Brunswick Interchurch Council to assist them in their goal of providing to the community.



CALABASH ELKS DONATE TO HONOR FLIGHT

The Veteran's Affairs Committee of the Calabash Elks Lodge recently made a \$1000. donation to "Cape Fear Area Honor Flight," a non-profit organization dedicated to transporting United States military veterans to Washington DC to see the memorials of the respective wars in which they fought, at no cost to the veterans. The Cape Fear Honor Flight Veteran Coordinator noted that 87 veterans will be on the flight this year.



Pictured Left to Right, Karen Reynolds; Elk John Zschoche; Justine Whipple, USMCR, Veteran Coordinator for Cape Fear Area Honor Flight; John Corbett, Veterans Committee Chair; and Elk Mike Thole.

KINSTON LODGE GIVES STUDENTS DRUG AWARENESS COLORING BOOKS

Thank you letters from students at Northeast school for drug awareness coloring books from Elks lodge.



KINSTON LODGE HOLDS DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAM

Paper dolls made by K-5 students at Northeast Elementary and colored drug awareness posters in recognition of Red Ribbon week.



Kinston Elks presented their Drug Prevention Program to 11th and 12th grade students at Bethel Christian School in Kinston. Lenoir County Sheriff's officers brought the jail for students to tour. Officers shared their knowledge of illegal drugs in the County.



EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT NEWS

RALEIGH ELKS DONATE TO MEALS ON WHEELS

The Raleigh Elks Bingo Committee made a \$500 donation to our friends at Meals on Wheels

Pictured left to right: Amy Akroyd, Asst. Director; Mary Kate Keith, Director for Development and Communications; ER Brian Madigan, Cheryl Howard and Angie Edwards.



BOY SCOUTS TEAM WITH RALEIGH ELKS TO DONATE FOOD

Scout Troop 104 donated **85** pounds of food to Raleigh Elks friends at Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, to be included in school pantries and family food boxes! Thank you boys!



SANFORD, FAYETTEVILLE, AND SOUTHERN PINES LODGES SUPPORT VA CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING



Three Elks lodges within the East Central Region of North Carolina joined forces to support the annual lighting of an Elks-donated Christmas tree at the Fayetteville Veterans Affairs Community Living Center. This collaboration between the lodges resulted in the donation of a live 10-foot tree, as well as refreshments for the event, which was attended by approximately 15 elderly veterans and 20 supporters.

The unity of these lodges plays a crucial role in supporting both the Community Living Center and local transient homeless veterans who are seeking assistance. This event highlights the ongoing commitment of the Elks lodges to our veterans and their well-being during the holiday season and beyond.

Pictured L to R. Aaron Barth, Veterans Activities Chair for Sanford Lodge, Shannon Fair, Veterans Activity Chair for Fayetteville Lodge and the East Central Chairperson, and David Rudd, Veterans Activity Chair for Southern Pines Lodge with the Elks donated tree.

RALEIGH ELKS DONATE CHRISTMAS TREES

Like Christmas of 2023, the afternoon "boys" on the West Coast of our lodge social quarters got together to purchase 5 trees to go to those who might not otherwise have one this year. Between "Vets to Vets United" and our Welcome Home Kit team, 5 families were identified. The Raleigh Elks Bingo team quickly approved decorations, lights, a tree stand and a skirt to be delivered with each tree. A plastic tub was added as well to store all this for next year!



RALEIGH BINGO COMMITTEE DONATED TO “VETS TO VETS”

The Raleigh Elks' Bingo Committee made a donation to Vets to Vets. This organization pairs military veterans with rescue dogs to help with mental or physical disabilities in order to enhance their quality of life.



RALEIGH ELKS HELP PROVIDE HOLIDAY DINNER TO HELLINE FAMILIES

Raleigh Elks traveled to Green Mountain, NC to serve a traditional Dinner to those affected by the devastation in Western NC. A meal of turkey, ham, mashed potatoes & gravy, stuffing, sweet potato casserole, beans, corn, rolls and dessert was served to approximately 400 people.

The 7 Raleigh Elks and 2 Greensboro Elks were joined by The Outlaw family and friends and numerous volunteers from around the country!

Raleigh Team: Dawn Wiggins, Justin Shaeffer, Dean Schaeffer, Sue DeLaire, Michelle DeLaire, Robert McAlister, Tony Keller. Missing team members: Lance McCullough and Anne Marie Isbell



SANFORD LODGE RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING STUDENT

On December 12th, members of the Sanford Elks Lodge gathered to honor an outstanding student leader, Cadet Staff Sergeant Valeria Martinez. A dedicated sophomore from Lee County High School, Ms. Martinez was recognized for her exceptional achievements in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program.

During the ceremony, Lodge members presented Ms. Martinez with the prestigious **Elks JROTC Medal** and a **Certificate of Appreciation** in recognition of her remarkable leadership abilities and commitment to Americanism. These awards celebrate not only her accomplishments in the JROTC program but also her embodiment of the values that the Elks Lodge holds dear — service to country, dedication to personal growth, and a strong sense of community.

As a member of the Lee County High School JROTC, Cadet Staff Sergeant Martinez has demonstrated exemplary leadership skills, a dedication to excellence, and an unwavering commitment to the ideals of citizenship and patriotism. Her work within the program reflects the core values of respect, responsibility, and service, making her a role model for her peers.

The event was attended by Lodge members, family, and friends, who all came together to celebrate this remarkable achievement. The Elks Lodge extends its congratulations to Cadet Staff Sergeant Valeria Martinez for her hard work, dedication, and leadership, and wishes her continued success in all her future endeavors.



Pictured from L to R: Jonathan Hackett, Lecturing Knight; Joe Clancy, NC Elks State President; Cadet Martinez; Aaron Barth, Sanford Elks Veteran Activities Chairman; Randally Mattingly, Exalted Ruler; and Duncan Riddle, Lodge Esquire.

SANFORD ELKS "TEEN SUPPORT" PROGRAM: HELPING TEENS IN NEED

At the Sanford Elks, we've long believed that "teens are kids too." We recognize that high school students face unique challenges. That's why we proudly offer our **Teen Support** program, dedicated to providing shoes, cleats, school supplies, Christmas presents, and other essentials for teenagers in need.

This program directly benefits high school students from two local schools in Sanford. We work closely with guidance counselors, coaches, and religious education teachers to identify students facing financial difficulties.

The Sanford Elks step in where other programs leave off. We purchase the necessary items for students whether shoes, school supplies, or other specific needs that may arise throughout the year. Our program ensures that teenagers won't go without, whether it's during the holidays or when their families are struggling financially. We do not give cash; instead, we buy the items directly or provide gift cards for specific stores where students can select what they need.

As the only organization in Lee County supporting high school students in this way, the Sanford Elks play a vital role in helping families get back on their feet. Every year, our members rally together to ensure these teens have access to the resources they need. Participation from the community grows year after year, and our efforts are widely recognized in Sanford.

This year, we will again provide essential items like shoes, socks, school supplies, tablets, calculators, and sports equipment. By meeting the needs of local teens, we help level the playing field and create opportunities for them to thrive both academically and socially. We want every teenager in Sanford to have what they need to succeed, and we're dedicated to continuing this important work for years to come.



Pictured Left: Elks member Katlynn Roberts (far right), presents Christmas presents to the Southern Lee County School counselors which will be given to identified students in need.

Pictured Right: - Elks members Jeremy Stack (cap) and Chanda Coomer, Past Exalted Ruler (orange vest) present Christmas presents to the Lee County High School counselors which will be given to identified students in need.



Pictured Left: - Eddie Brannan, Past Exalted Ruler (red shirt) presents Kindle Fire Tablets to the staff at the NC Jaycee Burn Center.



WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT NEWS

STATESVILLE ELKS CONTINUE REBUILDING HOME DAMAGED IN HURRICANE HELLINE

Team (Randy Fultz, Donna Arnett, Craig Elsenboss and Andy Elsenboss) mission was to install 200-amp service panel in the Laws family home. All electrical supplies including the service panel along with plumbing supplies was supplied by the Elks Disaster Relief funding.

The team arrived and the family had dug a 3' deep trench 150feet long from the service pole to the house where the meter base is to be installed. The team delivered all the electrical and plumbing supplies needed to complete roughing in the house. The team jumped in and removed a shelving unit along with the drywall on the wall. Once all the material was removed the team installed the new service panel. Next the team drilled a hole through the brick to install the new meter base. The Law family was left with instructions how to pull wire from the panel to each location.

Once the wiring is completed the floors can go back in. Thanks to the Team and Elks funding we've been able to make great strides in getting the home back in condition for the family to move back in-to.



STATESVILLE ELKS BUILD STEPS FOR DISABLED DISASTER VICTIM



The Statesville Elks Lodge disaster relief outreach built and installed steps for a disabled victim.

STATESVILLE LODGE CONTINUES DISASTER RELIEF WITH HELP OF PORT JERVIS NY LODGE

Statesville Elks Loading up for a weekend of work in Western Carolina to help with Disaster Relief. Goods were provided and delivered by Port Jervis N.Y. Lodge 645 to the Statesville Elks Lodge.



HIGH POINT ELKS HAVE BUSY MONTH SUPPORTING VETERANS PROGRAMS



The High Point Lodge hosted the monthly High Point Heroes Center "Coffee with Veterans" event in December. We provided breakfast and coffee for the veterans and enjoyed the fellowship. Also, at the event Heroes Center Board Chairman and Lodge member, Vic Jones announced that another one of our Lodge members, Tyler Dixon was named as interim Executive Director of the Heroes Center. Congratulations Tyler!

The High Point Elks Veterans Committee visited the Kernersville VA Retirement Home and distributed Christmas stockings to the residents. We did this in partnership with the Greensboro Lodge Veterans Committee.



The High Point Lodge provided Christmas dinner for the Arthur Cassell Transitional House residents. This house is for veterans who have been homeless and are now in programs to enable them to transition into permanent housing.

STATESVILLE LODGE TEAMS UP TO PARTNER IN TOY DRIVE

Talk about team work! Thank you 3A Composites, Action Industrial Supply, American Legion Post 65 and Statesville Elks Lodge for partnering up for an amazing Toy Drive!



HIGH POINT GOLF TOURNAMENT BENEFITS CAMP CAREFREE

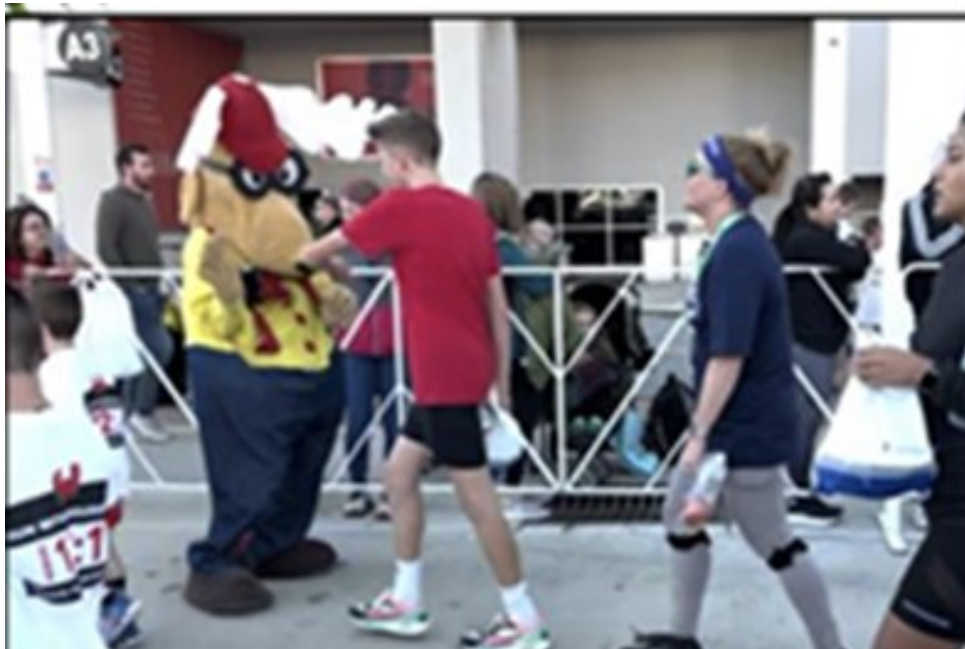
The High Point Lodge raised \$13,500 for Camp Carefree at their annual Andy Albertson/Steven Hall Charity Golf Tournament.



HIGH POINT LODGE SPONSORS 5K FUN RUN

High Point Lodge was a sponsor at the GoFAR 5K Fun Run in November. Elroy was there to cheer on the runners and he even competed in a race with the other mascots there that day!

A few days prior to the race, members of the Lodge helped the GoFAR team distribute brand new running shoes to students that needed them.

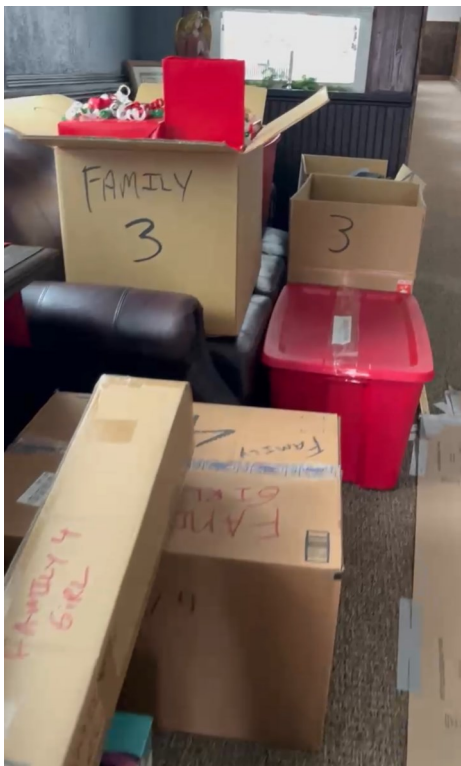


STATESVILLE ELKS PROVIDE CONTINUED DISASTER RELIEF TO AFFECTED FAMILIES

On 12/13/2024 the team loaded up 5 each 5-gallon buckets full of winter wheat donated by Bartlett Milling. The team took the wheat up to the family in Black Mountain. The kids each took a bucket and have broadcasted the wheat on the mud hill behind their house to get a root base to grow on the hill. During the visit they found that the left side wall of the house that was damaged during the mud slide is allowing bears to access the garage portion of the building. The homeowner has put up a tarp to try to keep the bears out. Our Team will be delivered Christmas presents along with food the next Saturday to the family. Our plan is to build a wall and install a door during the visit to keep both the rainwater along with the bears out of the house. The American Legion Riders are donating 2 truck loads of wood to help the family through the winter this week.

On 12/15/2024 the team traveled up to Newland to assist the Law family. The team delivered 2 buddy heaters (donated by Elks Disaster Relief Committee) along with cases of propane donated by Port Jervis N.Y. Elks Lodge to the Statesville Lodge for the family in Newland. The team also dropped off a new tire and wheel for the 12-year-olds dirt bike, a bow and arrows for the 9-year-old and Christmas presents for both kids. During the visit we were able to teach the family how to run the rest of the wire needed to complete the electrical in the house. We also showed the family how to start running the new insulation. The next big step will be to install the new sub floors in the house.

Our team delivered Christmas supplies to Black Mountain on 12/21/24 and to Cranberry on 12/24/24



WEST DISTRICT NEWS

HICKORY ELKS PARTICIPATE IN CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Hickory Elks Lodge participated in the Hickory Christmas Parade on November 22nd. Committee Chairs rode on the float and waived to the crowd while Lodge members and volunteers passed out candy and Drug Awareness coloring books, rulers and toys. Elroy made sure to say hi to all the children and danced his way thru the parade.



HICKORY ELKS SPONSOR CHRISTMAS FOR DEPLOYED MILITARY FAMILY



Frances Johnson from the NC National Guard Family Assistance Center Coordinator asked the Veterans Committee from the Hickory Elks Lodge to sponsor Christmas for a Deployed military family. Gifts were purchased, wrapped and Delivered by Lodge members Gary and Tracy Gantt and new member Lisa Grulick.

The mother pictured below happily accepted the gifts for their three children ages 4 thru 11.

HICKORY ELKS DELIVER GOODIES TO VA CLINIC

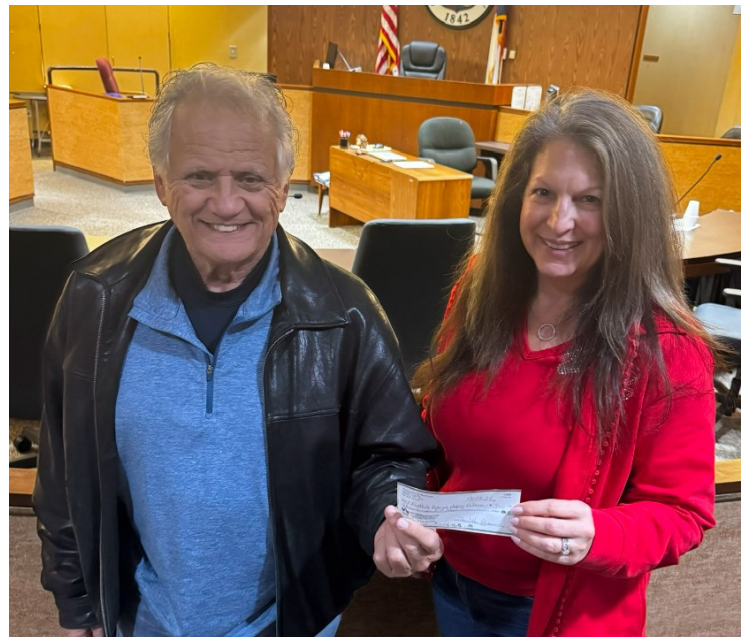


Lodge member and veteran Blake Watts and Lisa Watts, Elks Voluntary Service Representative from Hickory, NC Lodge #1654, deliver goodies for veterans receiving services at the Hickory VA clinic. These goodies are in baskets at several places around the clinic. Lisa and Blake are pictured with Eric Adams, the VA clinic's Admin officer. This year we were very happy at the Hickory Lodge to have a new veterans voluntary service group. For many years, Joe Elko has been our Veteran voluntary service representative for Black Mountain Veterans Home. We are proud of his service and of his recognition of veteran volunteer of the year for North Carolina State. We are so pleased to be able to serve veterans closer to home also. This VA clinic in Hickory is a satellite clinic for the VA Hospital in Asheville NC. Here they offer Primary Care, Mental Health Care, Specialty Care and Social programs.

HICKORY LODGE USES GRANT TO ASSIST VETERANS

The Hickory Elks Lodge used a North Carolina State Elks charitable trust grant for \$1500 to help veterans going through the court system, with veterans treatment court, with emergency housing and deposits to go into halfway houses (Oxford House) for their recovery in this program. This donation helps veterans get housing. This was a joint effort between the Elks contribution of \$300 and the Foothills Veterans Helping Veterans contribution of \$165 for her deposit and her first two weeks rent so she could get a fresh start. Also attending court were Elks Cary Bowman and Bee Watts to support veterans they mentor.

Pictured below are Samantha Bowman, Veterans Committee Chair from the Hickory Elks and Ric Vandett of the Foothills Veterans Helping Veterans.



HICKORY ELKS PROVIDE WELCOME HOME KIT TO NAVY VETERAN

The Hickory Elks Lodge #1654 Veterans Committee on January 23rd helped Veteran, Charles Goodwin with a Welcome Home Kit. Mr. Goodwin had previously experienced homelessness and is undergoing chemo for liver cancer. With the help of Veterans Services of the Carolinas, they provided a new apartment for him, and the Elks provided all his household goods, including dishes, coffee, pot, microwave, pots and pans, silverware, potholders, paper towels, toiletries, shower, curtain, bathroom rugs, bath towels, bedding, a lamp, cleaning supplies and laundry detergent. Also included was a bed from Mattress by Appointment of Lake Hickory; Chris Osborne discounts the cost to us for veterans, and a sofa and chair was also donated by our daughter, Jennifer Bowman. Thank you to Karl Kuehn and Cary Bowman for helping out with this delivery. This was one of two Welcome Home Kits delivered in January. Please reach out through Elks.org if you would like to know more. We plan to invite Mr. Goodwin to our lodge's next ham breakfast and expand our outreach using the Adopt-a-Vet program so that we can stay in touch with those that we help. We would like to wish all veteran patients improved health and well-being. They are in our hearts.

Samatha Bowman- Veterans Committee Chair

Pictured Navy Veteran and cancer patient Charles Goodwin



HICKORY LODGE ELVES AND SANTA CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT BLACK MOUNTAIN VA HOME

The Hickory Elks Lodge Elves along with Santa played by PER Cary Bowman put on a Christmas celebration for residents of the NC State Veterans Home at Black Mountain. The Elks brought a homemade meal of chicken and dumplings, mashed potatoes, green beans a roll and cake. All 100 residents received a gift of an embroidered ball cap with their branch of service. Junior Helms, father of a member, played the piano while Elk members sang Christmas carols.

Elks members who volunteered: Jeff Chock from the Morganton Lodge, Hickory Lodge members Mary Elko, Joe Elko, Linda Dodson, Jennifer Davis, Michelle Garrison, Cary Bowman, (Rudolph) Brenda Wron-ek, Bill Zacharenko, Beth Fox, Rosalind Smith, Beth Bolick, Valerie Arborgast, Sheryl James, Michelle Harwell, Charlie Self, Linda Zacharenko, Lauren Tucker, and Samantha Bowman, Veterans Committee. Chair.



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