

The Sandpiper



**February
March
2024
Edition**



**An Official Publication of
Elks Lodge ~ 2679, Calabash, North Carolina**



**Message from
The Exalted Ruler**

It's hard to believe that a year has gone by and this letter to all of you will be my final as Exalted Ruler. It has been an amazing year for me and for our lodge. There are so many people to thank for their many hours of volunteerism which have enabled our lodge to grow, and continue to be, one of the best, if not **THE** best lodge in the state.

From "pop up" celebrations, to pizza nights, to super decorations, to amazing entertainment, **YOU** have done it all and made it happen here at the lodge!!!!!!

I was recently asked what was our secret for success . . . there is no secret . . . we have amazing volunteers who refuse to use the mantra "this is the way we've always done it!" Years ago, when my late husband Joe and I came to live here, we were told that we **HAD** to join the Elks because it was "**THE** place to be". It was true 30 years ago and continues even more so today.

To all of you, thank you for the honor of allowing me to be your Exalted Ruler for the second time. It has been my privilege.
Juanita



**Message from the
Lodge Secretary**

Did you know that in January our Lodge initiated 26 new members? Wow! Your efforts to recruit your friends and neighbors are really paying off. Our Lodge is just as strong as our members. Keep up the good work.

It is once again time to renew your membership. We all started receiving our renewal notices from the Grand Lodge last week. As I've noted many times, these notices are sent via bulk mail and that means they may not be forwarded if you've moved and have not updated your mailing address. Please contact me if you do not receive your notice by the middle of February, because as you know starting on April 1st you will no longer be able to get into the lodge with your brown/beige card.

Renewal payments will again be accepted in a variety of ways. You may pay via credit card directly through the OSG program or you can mail in your payment in the envelope provided. In addition, you can also make your payment at the bar when the lodge is open. If you pay by credit card, it will go through the cash register, and you will receive a receipt. Check and cash payments can be dropped off in an envelope and will be given to me in the office. Please make sure that you include your renewal notice in the envelope to ensure that your account is properly credited. Receipts will **NOT** be issued for cash and check payments as they will not be put through the register.

Now that we seem to have made it through what felt like endless days of fog, I hope that you are enjoying the New Year! As always, feel free to contact me at the lodge should you have any questions.

Cyndi Shaw - Lodge Secretary
Phone: 910-575-8900
Email: Secretary@CalabashElks.Org
Office Hours
Mon & Thu 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



New Officers elected, PERs honored in February

A small group of actors and entertainers began this great Order on February 16, 1868. Look where we are one hundred and fifty six years later: We are still here to serve those in need, proving that *"Elks Care—Elks Share."* What a journey!

February is a very busy month for us as Elks. Only two months remain in the Lodge year. If you still have goals you haven't met, it's not too late. Get to work on them, they can still be accomplished. Use the next two months wisely and you certainly can get a lot done. It would be quite an accomplishment to announce to all of your Members that you have successfully reached the goals you set almost one year ago.

February is when new Officers are nominated and elected for the new Lodge year. All Lodges in our Order should elect leaders who are going to be dedicated to



**Message from
the Grand
Exalted Ruler**

**RANDY P.
SHOOK**

the affairs of your Lodge and community. The success of your Lodge programs will depend upon their leadership. Lodge Secretaries should note that February is when you must upload the Lodge directory into the CLMS2 web page. This information is extremely important so that updates are done in a timely manner.

This month we recognize our Past Exalted Rulers. We must let them know their leadership and experience is invaluable to

us. A Past Exalted Rulers Night is a great way to honor them for their contributions to your Lodge. Make them feel proud of their accomplishments.

During February, we recognize American Heart Month. This is when we get our Lodges and communities together in raising awareness to prevent heart disease. Proudly wear red during this month to show Elks care about cardiovascular health.

In addition to Presidents' Day on February 19, we also celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14. We remember the people we love and those who make a difference in our lives. To my wife, Wanda, thank you for being my valentine for the past forty one years.

Remember: *"We Are THE Elks."*

God Bless our great Order, our troops, and the United States of America.

Ritual remains cornerstone of Elks experience

By **MICHAEL W. IDDINGS**
Committee Chairman

What is ritual? It is a system of rites and ceremonial actions, such as an act or series of acts regularly repeated in a set precise manner.

Since the beginning, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has been steeped in ritual. Most of the original Jolly Corks were from England and belonged to the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes and the Freemasons, whose rituals were the foundation of the early Elks ceremonies. Over time, the Elks established their own identity by developing those ceremonies to be their own.

One of the first rituals the Elks used was adopted from the Buffaloes, the 11 O'Clock Toast. This ceremony allows us to honor our departed Members and keep their memories alive. This is one of the first rituals the public may experience when visiting the Lodge as a guest when a Member gives the Toast during an event.

The Toast was originally given at 11 p.m. The Members would stop their meeting, no matter where they were in the meeting, to toast the departed members. This ritual

continued even if the meetings did not last that long into the night. When events held at the Lodge would last until 11 p.m. or later, a break is taken at the eleventh hour to present the Toast. Nowadays, the Toast might be given at any time during the night. In many Lodges or at specific Elks events, the Toast has been given at 8 p.m. or some other suitable time. Even though some Members might perceive that timing does not correspond to the clock on the wall, it has become a practical time for the majority to hear. Isn't it better to give the Toast to all in attendance than wait until everyone has left? Nothing in the Statutes Annotated states you must wait until 11 p.m. to give the Toast. Nowadays, when there are events, the crowd often leaves at 9 p.m. When the clock strikes 11, no one remains at the Lodge.

Another ceremony created by the Elks in the early years was the funeral service, known as the Lodge of Sorrow. George McDonald, the first Secretary of the Order, created it. This was the first public ceremony for the Elks in New York in 1870 when two Members passed, and the remaining Members wanted to honor and memorialize them. Like all other rituals

and ceremonies, over the past 153 years the wording evolved to the modern-day language without affecting the meaning.

Out of all the rituals, the most important is the Initiatory Ritual. It is the first of the Elks rituals that a new Member will encounter when joining the Elks. Most important, it is where the candidate is made an Elk. Everyone who is an Elk, past, present, and future, must be initiated into the Order. During the Initiation, each station in the Lodge gives instructions and tells a story. The Grand Lodge believed this ritual was so important that it created a national contest in 1930. This contest has been held every year except in 1945 due to World War II and in 2020 because of the pandemic. In 2021, the Ritualistic Committee created the 11 O'Clock Toast Contest and added the Flag Contest on the national level the following year.

Over the years, the ritual, rites, and ceremonies of the Order have adapted to modern times while holding the values of our founding fathers.

The Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committee has been, and will continue to be, a steward of the ritual.



The ENF Fidelity Club ~ The Foundation's Monthly Giving Program

The easiest way to support the ENF all year round!

Do you contribute to the Elks National Foundation often? What if you could donate without having to think about it? Well, you can! Enroll today and become a member of the Fidelity Club the ENF's monthly giving program. Why Join the Fidelity Club?

ROI: For every dollar you donate \$1.75 is returned, to be used for benevolence!

Ease: The ENF Fidelity Club recognizes automatic, regularly scheduled donations through your bank account or credit card. These donations occur monthly (minimum \$5).

Eco-Friendly: Save a tree and save time with paperless donations!

Convenience: No need to purchase stamps or mail a check. It takes just five minutes to sign up, and you're good to go!

Flexibility: You can increase, modify or cancel your gift at any time.

Security: It's safe, reliable and allows the ENF to spend less time on administration and more time on our charitable mission.

Ready to Join?

Becoming a member of the Fidelity Club is simple! Enroll online at enf.elks.org/recurring and start your gift today! If you prefer to sign up through the mail, just print the enrolment form on the next page.

Questions? **Email:** enf@elks.org or **Call:** 773-755-4728 for additional information about starting a monthly gift and joining the ENF Fidelity Club.

Already a member? If you have an active monthly gift agreement with the ENF, you have automatically been enrolled in the ENF Fidelity Club! [Click here](#) to learn more about your monthly gift.

Lodges

The ENF Fidelity Club is an individual giving and recognition program. We are unable to accept enrollments from groups or Lodges. We encourage Lodges to submit donations via the Online Remittance form and credit individual donors. [Click here to make a one-time online donation.](#)

What are the Benefits?

The longer you are a member of the Fidelity Club, the more benefits you'll receive!

Fidelity Club Sticker: Following your first monthly gift, you'll receive a special Fidelity Club sticker for your membership card, and your name will appear in the online [Fidelity Club Honor Roll](#). At the end of each calendar year, you'll receive a new sticker with your annual statement.

Fidelity Club Pin: Once you've made 12 monthly gifts, you'll receive the ENF Fidelity Pin!

Pin Attachments: Each time you reach an additional benchmark—starting at 25 monthly gifts—you'll receive a pin attachment to wear with your Fidelity pin. Additional attachments will be sent at 50 and 100 gifts.

Bagels with the Board: An open-house breakfast at the Elks National Convention exclusively for Fidelity Club Members!

You may also Designate Your Gift

A designated gift directly supports the ENF program you select. You can choose to designate your gift to one program or select all programs and make an immediate difference in the lives of youth, veterans and Elks communities. Selecting the ENF Endowment Fund means your donation will be invested in a permanent fund where its interest will be distributed over time, ensuring the ongoing success of the ENF.



[Click here to view a Video about The Fidelity Club](#)



Neil Floor ~ ENF Chairperson ~ BPO Elks Lodge 2679



Elks National Foundation

2750 N. Lakeview Ave., Chicago, IL 60614 • 773/755-4728 (voice) • 773/755-4729 (fax) • enf@elks.org (email) • www.elks.org/enf (website)

Yes, I want to join the ENF Fidelity Club!

Name: _____

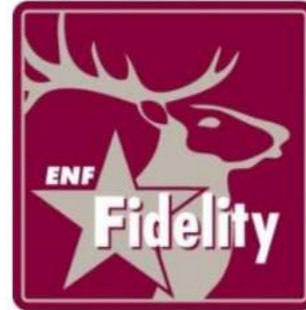
Billing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Lodge No.: _____ Member No.: _____

ENF Donor ID: _____



Option 1. Direct Debit

Please draft my bank account* monthly. (Enclose a voided check for accuracy.)

Bank Draft Start Date: 15th or 25th

Monthly Draft Amount: \$ _____

Signature: _____

Option 2. Credit Card

Please charge my credit card* the agreed monthly amount of: \$ _____

Visa

MasterCard

Discover

American Express

Acct. No.: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____

Signature: _____

Please designate my gift to my favorite ENF Program (circle one):

Community Investments Drug Awareness Hoop Shoot Scholarships Veterans Service All Programs

Return this form to:
Elks National Foundation
2750 N. Lakeview Ave.
Chicago, IL 60614-2256

For more information, visit enf.elks.org/FidelityClub.

Or contact the Elks National Foundation office at fundraising@elks.org or 773/755-4762

*This agreement will remain in effect until the ENF receives written notification of termination.



Brenda Norris Spotlight on an Elk



This issue's Spotlight is on a very special lady, who is one of those individuals that people describe as a "Go to Person". Whatever she does she puts everything she's got into it. The funny thing is, she has only been an Elk for a few years. One might say why spotlight someone so new when there are so many others who are members for many, many years. The answer to that is simple, members like Brenda Norris are what our lodge desperately needs. Someone who joins and jumps right into the everyday workings of our lodge.

Brenda who hails from New Hampshire made her way to North Carolina via New York and finally settled in our area in 2010. I asked if she missed the cold weather, snow and ice up North and she answered in a resounding NO! With her husband Greg already a long time Elk she began volunteering in the Treasurer's office even before she became an Elk. One thing led to another and before long she was helping out all over the lodge. These days you'll find her where she started assisting the Treasurer and Secretary and at most of the big events, you'll see her running around helping out the bartenders, servers and doing whatever she can to make the event a success as most of them are.

I asked Brenda if she has had any problems being a woman in what was (many years ago) a man's domain and what she would tell other women who may be apprehensive of joining the Elks because of its history. She said she has always been welcomed with open arms and feels that the organization has evolved to a more family friendly place. A safe place where couples can meet each other and become friends in and out of the lodge. A place where a group of women can go for a lunch that's safe, friendly and affordable with great food to boot.

You can't sit across from Brenda for any length of time without feeling this is someone you want to get to know better. She is an Elk's Elk and a perfect example of why we need more women in the lodge.



Veterans Affairs Committee - #2679 Calabash, NC

The Veterans Affairs Committee (VAC) finished the year with a quiet December but picked up the pace in January and will have a busy start to 2024.

We made two donations in January to Lower Cape Fear Lifecare and the Brunswick County Community College Partnership for American Veteran Employment (PAVE). Details are below.

The VAC made a \$1000.00 donation to the Lower Cape Fear LifeCare Veteran Services that is a member of the “We Honor Veterans” Program of the Department of Veteran’s Affairs.

The mission of this Program is to assist veterans in hospice and palliative care and their families with navigating veteran benefit options, answering questions they may have, and honoring their service throughout their time with Lower Cape Fear LifeCare. The program is a collaborative effort of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the Department of Veteran’s Affairs.

Pictured in the photo from left to right are: Charles Munden, VAC Member; John Corbett, VAC Chairman; Anne Hewett, Lower Cape Fear LifeCare; Laura Long, Lower Cape Fear LifeCare; John Ewell, VAC Member; and Melissa Pusch, VAC Member



The VAC also donated \$2,000 to the Brunswick Community College’s (BCC) Partnership for American Veteran Employment (PAVE) Program. The mission of the **PAVE** Program is to support an institutional **work/study** program that provides our Veteran students real-life experiences in the civilian work place through employment at BCC, which then may increase their marketability in the workplace upon graduation.



Veterans Affairs Committee - #2679 Calabash, NC



Many Veterans are able to attend Brunswick Community College due to the GI Bill. However, they may need additional resources to supplement their living expenses, and require seeking employment, that may conflict with educational program requirements.

The donations to PAVE program are earmarked to minimize stress for our Veterans through the funding of the institutional work study program.

Since the initiation of the PAVE Program in 2016, the VAC has donated \$8000.00.

Pictured Left (Left to Right) are: Donna Kozlowski, VAC Member; John Corbett, VAC Chairman; Teresa Nelson, BCC Foundation Executive Director; Joe Nazzario VAC Member; and Ann Marie Waters VAC Member.

In addition, the VAC was awarded a \$6,000 combined Beacon and Spotlight grant from the Elks National Foundation (ENF) to be used to support Quality of Life programs at The SGT Ashley Center for Homeless Veterans under The Good Shepherd Center in Wilmington. The Ashley Center provides short-term (90 day), transitional Bridge Housing for up to 16 homeless Veterans at a time as they transition from homeless to permanent self-supporting housing. We will be spending February delivering on the projects to improve quality of life in the Center.

Congressman Rouzer Applauds Calabash Elks Lodge in his Newsletter

This Week's Good News Story

For this week's good news story, I'm highlighting the Calabash Elks Lodge 2679 for supporting student veterans through the Foundation of Brunswick Community College. According to the Brunswick Beacon, "the Veterans Affairs Committee of Calabash Elks Lodge 2679 marked the beginning of the new year with a generous \$2,000 donation to The Foundation of Brunswick Community College. The funds will bolster the Partnership for American Veterans Employment (PAVE) program to help veteran students gain the skills and education needed to succeed. The PAVE program supports an institutional work-study initiative for veterans that enables them to gain employment while attending school. PAVE bridges the gap between what the GI Bill provides and the total cost, including living expenses, of pursuing their education." More can and should be done to improve the care and lives of our veterans who have so nobly served this country, and I applaud the Calabash Elks Lodge for contributing to this effort!



Calabash Elks Ladies Auxiliary



While giving blood at our recent Blood Drive I noticed this “Wall of Fame” for our Ladies Auxiliary. I wanted to share it with you, just in case some of our new members haven’t noticed it before. These ladies work very hard during the year and any recognition of their efforts is greatly appreciated.

I asked the Chaplain of The Ladies Auxiliary, Sandy Gaetano, for a prayer for the coming year.

Dear Heavenly Father,

Please be with our Ladies Auxiliary, help it to continue to work with and alongside of The Elks. May we contribute in any way we can to its efforts in benevolence and spreading of goodwill in our community. We pray these and all things in your precious name. Amen



Hoop Shoot News

On Saturday, December 9th, 2023, we held our annual Local Elks Hoop Shoot event at the Shallotte Middle School. The Shallotte, Oak Island and Calabash Lodges hosted this event with 16 children shooting free throws as part of this event. The local chairman would like to thank all the 17 volunteers from the lodges that took part in the event. Our lodges advanced 5 winners to the district 6600 Hoop Shoot contest.

On Saturday, January 20th, 2024, three of our local lodge Hoop Shoot contest winners were able to compete with other children from our district in Goldsboro, NC.

Don Arsenault (Hoop Shoot Chairman), Gary Reynolds (Leading Knight) and Joe Kiemig attended the District Hoop Shoot to cheer our winners on.

We are glad to announce that the 3 children who took part in the event all placed first in their age groups. Winners are as follows: Jordyn Wells from Leland (8–9-year-old) girls division, Madison Yoder from Sunset Beach (10–11-year-old) girls division and Zi'air Daniels from Shallotte (12–13-year-old) boys division.

The next stop for these winners is the State Finals which is scheduled for February 10th, 2024, in Greensboro.



Pictured front row (L to R): Jordyn Wells, Zi'air Daniels, Madison Yoder.
Back Row (L to R): Don Arsenault, Joe Kiemig and Gary Reynolds.



B I N G O

Happenings

What a year! In 2023 Elks bingo set records in turnout, payouts and the amount we gave to charity. In 2022 we set a record by giving \$14,500, to charity. This year we eclipsed that by giving back to the community \$25,000. This milestone, which has been a goal for some time, is the result of the effort of our volunteers but more importantly our players.

Our players believe the Elks Bingo is the best bingo parlor in North and South Carolina. They have enhanced the Bingo experience, making it a must attend social event. They have supported change and have been creative (and generous) by providing gift baskets on special occasions during the year with proceeds all going to charity.

Pictured below are our own "Dixie Chicks," who have donated Charity baskets at our end of year party. The other is "The Son Of Carnak the Magnificent," With Diana Rettig (Our past Bingo Chairman) making the announcement of our Charity giving.

We are proud of what we have accomplished and each of you should be proud of being a part of an organization that does so much to give back to the community.

John Goryance (Mr. Bingo)



... more **B I N G O** *Happenings* on next page



Tuesday January 23 was a day of celebration and recognition at the Calabash Elks. Elks Bingo presented ten local charities with checks totaling \$25,000. The charities, listed below, represent a cross section of our community that provide vital services and resources to many who are in need. The evening was organized in a manner to recognize the charities for what they do, the work of the bingo committee who volunteer their time and more importantly, the players of Elks bingo who made this evening possible.

Tuesday night bingo evolved from just playing to a social event that people look forward to, to one that now has a charitable focus. When you couple people who look forward to an enjoyable evening with volunteers that make it happen and top it off with the ability to extend a helping hand to those in need you have the winning combination. We are simply the best bingo parlor in North and South Carolina. A special thanks to Diana Rettig, our past Bingo Chairman, for organizing and coordinating this event and Tom Ditzner, our current Bingo Chairman who led our team to this goal that some of us have been working toward for some time.

Submitted by John Goryance aka Mr. Bingo



Seated in the front row from left to right is:

- Anne Hewett - Lower Cape Fear Lifecare - Senior Fundraising Executive
- Tyffanie Daganello - Brunswick Family Assistance - Assistant Director
- Kate Grinstad - Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity, Supply office - Development Mgr
- Fran Hecht - Providence home – Southport NC - Family Emergency Teen Shelter - Board member
- Laura Von Herrmann - Sea Haven for Youth - Director of Development

Standing in the back row from left to right is:

- Karmen Smith Custer - Hope Harbor Home - Executive Director
- Patrick Inman - Brunswick County Sheriff's Office Animal Protective Services - Animal Control Officer
- Keith McGee - Calabash Fire Department, Fire Chief
- Mark R. Nugent - Horry County Fire Rescue Foundation - Assistant Chief
- Tom Lamont - Boys and Girls Home of North Carolina - Director of Community Engagement

Below Our Recipients and the Calabash Elks Bingo Team in Yellow Shirts





THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

Elks in The News

Christmas gifts donated by Calabash Elks



Photo contributed

Calabash Elks donated Christmas gifts for the families of Waccamaw School. Shown from left are Robin Knab, Robin Beane (school secretary), Santa and Joan Tellish.



Photo contributed

The Calabash Elks Lodge recently donated \$1,500 to The Lords Food Pantry in Shallotte. This is the second consecutive year that donations were given to the food pantry as a charitable donation from Elks Lodge Charity Golf Tournament. Shown from left are Elk member Ellie Allen, The Lords Food Pantry representatives Mary Pritchard, Treasurer Peggy Antunes and President Mike Claxton.



Photo contributed

Brunswick Family Assistance Executive Director Stephanie Bowen loves serving her community by providing a safe space for those in need of support.





The Calabash Elks Lodge donated \$1000 to the STARS program of Seaside Methodist Church. The STARS program is a summer literacy program designed to improve early childhood literacy in 2nd and 3rd grade students in rural communities. Pictured L-R; Neal Floor, Elk National Foundation Chair; Barb Duclos; STARS Program Director; and Juanta Adams, Lodge Exalted Ruler.



The Calabash Elks Lodge donated \$1000 to the Christian Recovery Center in Shallotte. The Christian Recovery Center provides spiritual and educational tools for a long-term recovery from addiction. Pictured L-R; Neal Floor, Elk National Foundation Chair; Ashley Kidwell, Assistant Director of Rose House; Taylor Murphy, Development Manager; and Juanita Adams, Elk Lodge Exalted Ruler.



In case you didn't know we have regularly scheduled Blood Drives at the Lodge.
If you can't make the one below, check out your EBlasts for future dates.



The Need is URGENT!!!

Yes, the need IS urgent and our recent Blood Drive at the Lodge responded! 46 donors provided 39 whole blood and 14 Power Red products. I was signed in by two of our finest!





Calabash Elks Lodge Directory 2023-2024

Officer/Committee	Name	E-Mail	Phone
Exalted Ruler	Juanita Adams	ExaltedRuler@CalabashElks.Org	910 398-2382
Esteemed Leading Knight	Gary Reynolds	LeadingKnight@CalabashElks.Org	518 788-2440
Esteemed Loyal Knight	Donald Arsenault	LoyalKnight@CalabashElks.Org	774 571-8957
Esteemed Lecturing Knight	Walter Shannon	Lecturingnihjt@calabashelks.org	540 835-9490
Esquire	Teddy Acton	tacton@atmc.net	910 616-9023
Inner Guard	Edward Sackal	esbeach7@gmail.com	646 919-0406
Tiler	Bruce Shamyer	brucepat1@verizon.net	910 287-3832
Secretary	Cynthia "Cyndi" Shaw	Secretary@CalabashElks.Org	704 577-4277
Treasurer	David "Dave" Foulds	Treasurer@CalabashElks.Org	978 886-7848
Chaplain	Sigi Mayo	smayo@atmc.net	910 713-4239
Board of Directors - Chairperson	Mark Kerr	BoardChairman@CalabashElks.Org	910 200-7417
2 - Year Trustee	Robert Paoletti	p0909robert@aol.com	610 762-2557
3 - Year Trustee	Thomas "Tom" Ditzler	ttwd88@atmc.net	910 712-0112
4 - Year Trustee	Vicki Buff-Schreiber	paul-vicki@msn.com	908 303-5441
5 - Year Trustee	Tom "Thomas" Friewald	tfpoly@epix.net	610 763-5049
House Committee	Daniel Shaw (Chairman)	HouseCommittee@CalabashElks.Org	704 577-1101
	Gene Bellando (Secretary)		703 881-2515
Club Manager	Richard "Ricky" Moore	ClubManager@CalabashElks.Org	910 368-6872
Hall Rental	Louis "Louie" DeCaprio	RentHall@CalabashElks.Org	910 3678727
Kitchen Coordinator Lunch	Paul Lang	LunchKitchen@CalabashElks.Org	203 482-1775
Kitchen Coordinator Dinner	OPEN	DinnerKitchen@CalabashElks.Org	910 577-1101
Charity BINGO Committee	Thomas "Tom" Ditzler	CharityBINGO@CalabashElks.Org	910 712-0112
Elks National Foundation	Neil Floor	nfloor65@gmail.com	908 910-9555
NC State Charitable Trust	Mark Kerr	mark.kerr22@ymail.com	910 200-7417
Annual Golf Tournament	Ronald "Ron" Binetti	Golf@CalabashElks.Org	910 269-9595
	Edward "Ed" Sackal		646 919-0406
Government Relations	Vickie Acton	tacton@atmc.net	910 616-8987
Membership Committee	Gary Reynolds	LeadingKnight@CalabashElks.Org	910 207-8877
Veterans Affairs Committee	John F. Corbett	VAC@CalabashElks.Org	571 251-8778
Communications and Marketing Committee	Mark Kerr	Communications@CalabashElks.Org	910 200-7417
	Michael "Mike" Trescak		910 389-7759
	Donald Arsenault		774 571-8957
Scholarship Committee	Juanita Adams	ExaltedRuler@CalabashElks.Org	910 398-2382
Building and Grounds	Robert Fraser	frsr06@me.com	803 992-4717
Youth Activities	Donald Arsenault	LoyalKnight@CalabashElks.Org	774 571-8957
Calabash Elks Ladies Auxiliary	Kathy Kelly - President	LadiesAuxiliary@CalabashElks.Org	704 351-1410



Happy Birthday

At the bar during the month your Birthday? Show the Bartender your Driver's License to get FREE drink.

Happy Birthday

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS		19-Mon	Michael M Jessee	09-Mon	Gary Summers
01-Thu	Helen Cherubini	20-Sun	Curt Meyer	10-Thu	Jeffrey Eiseman
01-Fri	Thomas W Childs	20-Sat	Glenn T Wetzel	10-Thu	Michael Howard
01-Sat	Deana Sophia Corsetti	21-Sat	Alexander H Wilson	10-Tue	Steve Jewell
01-Fri	Regina Giarrusso	22-Wed	Frank D Fitzgerald	11-Mon	Curtis Orwig
02-Fri	Kenneth Wayne Burchfield	22-Sat	Steven Mathews	11-Fri	Kenneth Ross
02-Wed	Edward J Campbell	22-Sun	Thomas Minella	12-Fri	Margaret Donohue
03-Wed	Rudolph G Manser	22-Sun	Gerald J Sliss	12-Tue	Christina Renee Garnett
03-Sat	Michael W Seger	24-Thu	Sara Dawn Lucas	12-Thu	William B McQuiggan
04-Thu	Debbie Jewson-Valasek	24-Sun	Henry Minasian	13-Sat	Robert Passarelli
04-Sun	Detlef Ted Reuss	25-Tue	Cecelia Ann Herman	14-Mon	Karl Hoelzl
05-Fri	Francis M Coury	26-Sun	Jane L Blosser	14-Mon	Richard Nowakowski
05-Wed	Janine Huber	26-Sun	Richard Keefer Jr	15-Fri	Charles S Moon
06-Tue	Stanley Barwikowski	27-Sat	Catalina Celentano	16-Sun	John K Bendy Lm
06-Tue	Robert Clifford	27-Thu	Murray G Palmer Lm	16-Tue	Janice M Rhodes
06-Sat	David Powers	28-Mon	Charles T McSwain	17-Fri	Joseph P Felock
07-Fri	Thomas Ditzler	28-Wed	David C O'Keefe	17-Thu	Charles K Munden
07-Thu	William D Edwards	MARCH BIRTHDAYS		18-Wed	Brenda Baron
07-Sat	Harold R Riebesehl	01-Fri	Charlene Dougherty	18-Tue	Sharon K Merkel
08-Sun	Kevin Hoyt	01-Thu	Patricia Guckert	18-Fri	James(Rod) Orem
08-Mon	Louis Iannello	01-Thu	Carol Stabile	18-Mon	Stanley Rogoff
08-Sat	Joseph V Nazzario	01-Sat	John C Stancoven	19-Tue	Onorato Norm Morelli
09-Sun	Guillermo William Gonzales	02-Thu	Peggy Kelly-Howard	21-Mon	Merrill Dorph
10-Sat	Judith M Harms	02-Tue	Emil Schneider	21-Mon	Pamela Forgey
11-Mon	Neil Floor	03-Mon	James Glemming	21-Sun	Shirley Turlington
11-Sat	Richard T Moore	03-Thu	Ronald Moss	22-Sat	Douglas M Blaney
12-Tue	Kathleen M Cargill	03-Mon	Patricia Q Nolan	23-Thu	Susanna Partrick
12-Wed	Gary W Dobratz	04-Tue	Peggy A Herbine	24-Fri	Gail A Conlon
13-Tue	Lionel I Deitch	04-Sun	Douglas Lakis	24-Fri	Louis J Stamboni
13-Fri	John Ewell	04-Tue	Lloyd E Price	25-Tue	Nanette Pierce
13-Mon	Michael Marotti	04-Fri	Steve Yacubovich Sr	25-Sat	Jeffrey H Salter
13-Sun	William M Serafin	05-Tue	Michael Abbott	25-Sat	Gary L Trowbridge
14-Sat	Donna Cardinuto	05-Thu	Ruby B McMillen	25-Tue	Edward Wood
14-Mon	Robert W Quinlan	05-Mon	Tom Rolli	26-Sat	Brenda F Arnold
14-Thu	Dan Reilly	06-Thu	John D'Auria	26-Thu	John R Croake
14-Thu	Gary L Smith	07-Sun	James D Hall	26-Tue	Michael C Flibotte
15-Wed	Kerry Bartoletti	07-Wed	Keith A Rosdahl	26-Fri	Buzz Helmecki
15-Sun	Douglas E Crandall	08-Wed	Robert Breen	27-Tue	Fernando Pitre
15-Fri	Frances M Quigley	08-Mon	Duane K Davis	30-Sun	James P Beairsto Lm
17-Sat	Richard M Cross	08-Sun	James J Donohue	30-Mon	Patrick McClafferty
18-Fri	Joyce Dorsa	08-Fri	Patricia A Shamyer	30-Wed	Joan Tellish
18-Mon	Steven Eastman	09-Sun	Kenneth Gass	30-Wed	Pikey Walters
18-Tue	Sammy Mishue	09-Sat	Marjorie H Macy	31-Wed	Joyce Westcott
19-Fri	Michael D Evarts	09-Thu	Robert Perlow		



Did Ya Know?

Maureen Sweeney, weather watcher dies at 100 but Did Ya Know?

Ms. Sweeney's weather data from western Ireland offered the first clues of a major storm, leading to a one-day delay in the D-Day invasion in 1944. Before dawn on June 3, 1944, a postal clerk in Ireland's County Mayo checked her weather gauges. A storm was coming fast. The barometer readings were dropping. The wind, pouring off a low-pressure zone in the mid-Atlantic, was slicing through the drizzle in the village of Blacksod. She double-checked the observations. They then were passed along until finally they reached Britain's Met Office, which since 1939 had used the Blacksod post office as one of its weather stations. Blacksod carried particular importance. Its position on Ireland's northwestern coast was often an early warning of Atlantic weather systems headed for Britain. The data collected that morning was the most significant yet. About 7,000 ships and landing craft, 11,000 aircraft and more than 130,000 Allied troops were amassed for Operation Overlord, the invasion into Nazi-occupied France. The only missing puzzle piece was the weather forecast for the English Channel to decide if June 5 would be D-Day. The storm observations from County Mayo were the first indications of trouble ahead. The invasion was postponed until June 6. And the postal worker — 21-year-old Maureen Flavin — became part of World War II lore as a linchpin in the weather team whose work persuaded commanders to hold off for 24 hours the air-and-sea assault that helped change the course the war. "They could arrange everything, but they couldn't prearrange the weather. ... We eventually had the final say," Maureen Flavin Sweeney, who died Dec. 17 at 100, later recalled.

Analysis: D-Day would be nearly impossible to pull off today. Here's why.

Ms. Sweeney was one of the many civilian women involved in nearly every facet of the war effort from the factory floor (think Rosie the Riveter) to assisting in military command centers to leading community mobilizations such as organizing scrap drives. Few, however, had moments so directly connected to major decisions as Ms. Sweeney on that gloomy June morning. For a tense few hours, her weather readings and observations were given top priority as they moved up the chain of command to Group Capt. James Martin Stagg, a Met Office meteorologist attached to the Royal Air Force. Stagg also was the chief weather adviser for Gen. Dwight D Eisenhower, who was in charge of D-Day operations.

In the era before satellite imagery, the weather forecast was pieced together based on barometric data, wind patterns, cloud formations, and sometimes just accumulated local knowledge of the skies and seas. Early June was picked for D-Day because of lower-than-normal tides and a moon cycle that provided darkness during the early stages of the invasion and, on a clear night, a moon glow after rising later on. Missing the window was a scenario "too bitter to contemplate," Eisenhower said. "A bad forecast would jeopardize the entire operation," wrote author John Ross in "The Forecast for D-Day" (2014). "If [Eisenhower] gave the word to 'go,' and the weather turned sour, the lives of thousands of men and massive amounts of equipment would be lost." The weather station and post office in Blacksod, Ireland, in the 1940s. (Courtesy of Fergus Sweeney) As Stagg reviewed the incoming information — from Ms. Sweeney and other weather watchers — nothing looked promising. At 11 a.m. in County Mayo, the phone rang at the Blacksod post office. "A lady with a distinct English accent requested me to 'Please check. Please repeat,'" Ms. Sweeney recounted in an interview with Ireland's RTÉ.

"We began to look at the figures again. We checked and rechecked," Ms. Sweeney said. (Although Ireland declared itself neutral, the country's head of government, Éamon de Valera, agreed to share weather intelligence with the Allies.) Stagg's weather map was coming together, with added reports from seagoing vessels. By the end of the day, it showed two major low-pressure areas — one south of Greenland and the other just north of Scotland. They created a cyclone effect that passed through the Channel from June 4 into June 5, with winds of up to 30 mph and sheets of rain. The conditions effectively nixed the core of the D-Day operations: the massive amphibious landing on Normandy beaches and airdrops of paratroopers behind the German lines. "The invasion would have been a complete disaster," Ms. Sweeney told RTÉ. "There they were with thousands of aircraft and they couldn't tolerate low cloud."

For more than a decade, Ms. Sweeney was unaware of her part in D-Day. As once-secret war information was unsealed, the connections were made between the D-Day postponement and the weather data, including the early reports from Blacksod.

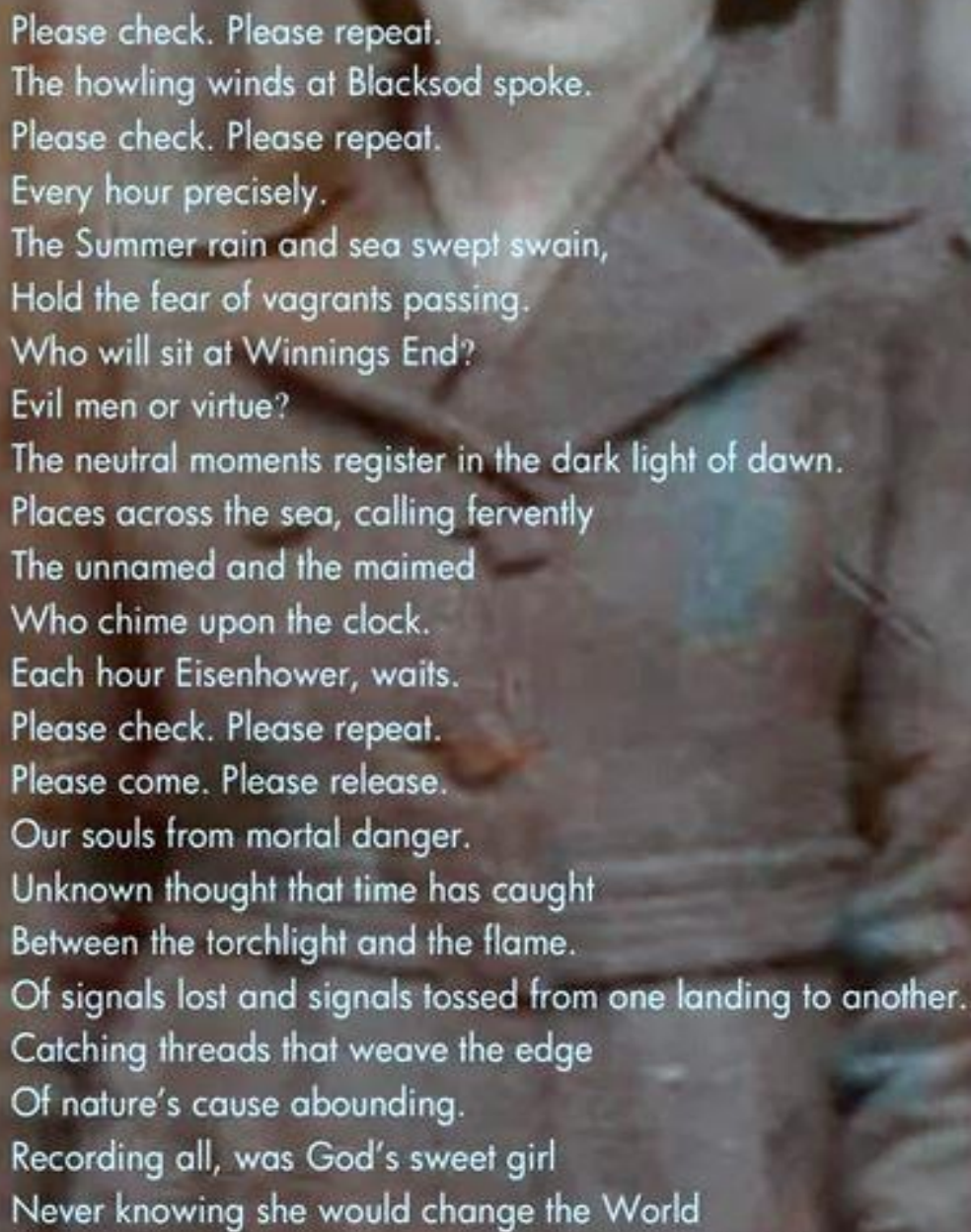
In 2021, in a ceremony at her nursing facility in Belmullet, Ireland, Ms. Sweeney's role in the war was cited by the U.S. House of Representatives. A friend, Ruth O'Hagan, wrote a poem for Ms. Sweeney, "The Girl Who Changed the World." (**see next page**).

Shortly before his inauguration, President-elect John F. Kennedy reportedly asked President Eisenhower for details on why D-Day succeeded.

"Because," Eisenhower said, "we had better meteorologists than the Germans."



Maureen Flavin Sweeney, Born June, 3rd 1923 – Died December 17th 2023



Please check. Please repeat.
The howling winds at Blacksod spoke.
Please check. Please repeat.
Every hour precisely.
The Summer rain and sea swept swain,
Hold the fear of vagrants passing.
Who will sit at Winnings End?
Evil men or virtue?
The neutral moments register in the dark light of dawn.
Places across the sea, calling fervently
The unnamed and the maimed
Who chime upon the clock.
Each hour Eisenhower, waits.
Please check. Please repeat.
Please come. Please release.
Our souls from mortal danger.
Unknown thought that time has caught
Between the torchlight and the flame.
Of signals lost and signals tossed from one landing to another.
Catching threads that weave the edge
Of nature's cause abounding.
Recording all, was God's sweet girl
Never knowing she would change the World

(Ruth O'Hagan, May 2021)



Note from the Editor

I gotta say time is flyin by, here we are at the end of another Elk Year. The officers are getting ready to play musical chairs and we say goodbye to Juanita Adams who served this past year as ER with grace, humility, a great sense of humor and a warm smile that welcomed even the most apprehensive of new members at our initiation ceremony. Her experience will be missed, this being her second go round but she will have that much more time under her sash the next time she is ER 😊😊

The reason why I'm not on facilities is when I first looked at the cartoon on the left, for a few seconds I was thinking, wow what a great idea!

A special shout out to all of our staff and volunteers who make spending time at the lodge a great time in all seasons.

Once again if you have any questions, concerns or something to include in the Newsletter.

Email me at:

Sandpiper@CalabashElks.org

Best Regards ~ Frank Gaetano

Your House Committee and Club Manager have been working hard to provide you, our valued members, new and different activities in which you can participate, have some fun and camaraderie, and support Your Lodge at the same time. These events include Dining Opportunities, Holiday Themed Dinner Dances, and Trivia Challenges. You will find announcements for these events scheduled to occur during December and January. You will be kept up to date on these events in our weekly EBlasts. Be sure to sign up for these events and support Your Lodge.

VOLUNTEER

At the same time, the House Committee and Club Manager cannot do all of this alone, - they need Your Help. Please consider Volunteering for just a few hours a month to help Set-Up for these events, or to help in the Kitchen. Contact your Club Manager, to get on the schedule.

House Committee: Daniel Shaw - 910-577-1101

Club Manager: Ricky Moore - 910-368-6872

It's good for the Lodge and also for you!



**REMEMBER NO SMOKING
OR SKUNKS
Allowed in the Lodge**

Famous Elk Quotes

"The worst thing that happens to you may be the best thing for you if you don't let it get the best of you."

Will Rogers



If you want to be kept up to date on Menus & Events there is nothing better than our EBlast. It comes right to your email box at least once a week (on Monday) and fills you in like An Elk Burger. Just make sure you have communications@calabashelks.org in your contacts to keep it from going to Spam with the Extended Car Warranties.



If you would like to check out "What's Cookin" on our website? just Click on the Chef



Wanna check out "What's Happenin" Click on Special Events and head to our website





Welcome 26 New Members!



Twenty-Six (26) New Members were initiated into the Calabash Elks #2679 in a Formal Ceremony conducted on Wednesday Evening, January 24th, 2024

The New Members pictured above:

(Back Row Standing – Staggered Heads, Left to Right) are:

Michael Paul Horvath, David Diminico, Catalina Celentano, Mark Brandes, Richard “Rick” Celentano, David Hatten, Christina “Christy” Garnett, Rosanne Matthews, David “Dave” Kellerman, Daniel Sundo, Michael Marotti, Linda Dashuta, Christopher “Chris” Martucci, Jeffrey Haga, John Hoglund, Ron Swartz, Jack Wilson, Edward “Ed” McElroy

(Front Row Seated – Left to Right) are:

Louise Mesenbrink, Mary Anna Duke, Susan O’Reilly, Charles Johnstone, Holly Clark-Dull, Charles Guido, John Noviello, Debra “Deb” Vetro

Smiling Faces in Friendly Places!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

~ Calabash Elks Lodge #2679 Class of January 24th, 2024 ~



Lodge of Sorrow

2024

Rosemary O'Reilly

December 24th

Initiated 06/11/2003

The Eleven O'Clock Toast

"You have heard the tolling of eleven strokes.
 This is to remind us that with Elks
 the hour of eleven has a tender significance.
 Wherever an Elk may roam,
 Whatever their lot in life may be,
 when this hour falls upon the dial of night
 the great heart of Elkdom swells and throbs.
 It is the golden hour of recollection,
 the homecoming of those who wander,
 the mystic roll call of those who will come no more.
 Living or dead, an Elk is never forgotten, never forsaken.
 Morning and noon may pass them by,
 the light of day sink heedlessly in the West,
 but ere the shadows of midnight shall fall,
 the chimes of memory will be pealing forth
 the friendly message --
 "TO OUR ABSENT MEMBERS"



*Gary Bowley
Photography
© 2017*



~ Calabash Elks February 2024 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 House Committee Meeting 9:00 a.m. VAC Meeting 6:00 p.m. Lobster Roll Night 4:30 – 6:30 Tickets Required	2 Communication Committee 9:00 a.m.	3 Chili Cook-Off 2:00 – 6:00 Main Room Saturday Night at the Lodge "JT & The Strats" 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
4	5 Monday Nite Special Dining 4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.	6 Golf Committee Meeting 2:00 p.m. BINGO 5:00 p.m.	7 Past Exalted Ruler Meeting 3:00 p.m.	8	9 Valentine's Day PER Dinner Dance "Harlequin" 6:00 -9:30 p.m.	10
11	12 Ladies Aux. Officer Mgt. 3:00 p.m. Ladies Auxiliary General Meeting 4:00 p.m. Monday Nite Special Dining 4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.	13 Golf Committee Meeting 2:00 p.m. BINGO 5:00 p.m.	14 Membership Meeting 7:00 p.m.	15	16 TRIVIA CHALLENGE with Lou Pratt 7:00 p.m.	17
18	19 BOD Mtg 3:00 p.m. Monday Nite Special Dining 4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.	20 Golf Committee Meeting 2:00 p.m. BINGO 5:00 p.m.	21 Ladies Auxiliary Card Party 11:00am – 3:00pm	22 TACO Night 4:30 – 6:30	23	24 Saturday Night at the Lodge "Christina Black" 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
25	26 Monday Nite Special Dining 4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.	27 Golf Committee Meeting 2:00 p.m. BINGO 5:00 p.m.	28 Membership Meeting 7:00 p.m.	29		

February 2024 Calabash Elks v2 12/10/2023

~ Calabash Elks March 2024 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
McLean Rochelle Golf Tournament and Luncheon Sandpiper Bay Golf Club Saturday March 2, 2024, 9:30 Shotgun					1	2 Elks Golf Tournament 9:30 Shotgun Luncheon 1:00 pm Saturday Night at the Lodge "JT & The Strats" 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
3	4 Monday Nite Special Dining 4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.	5 BINGO 5:00 p.m.	6 Past Exalted Ruler Meeting 3:00 p.m.	7 House Committee Meeting 9:00 a.m. Kazoo Band Practice 4:30 – 6:00 pm VAC Meeting 6:00 p.m.	8 Communication Committee 9:00 a.m. Black & White Dinner Dance "Different Directions" 6:00 – 9:30 p.m.	9
10	11 Ladies Aux. Officer Mgt. 3:00 p.m. Ladies Auxiliary General Meeting 4:00 p.m. Monday Nite Special Dining 4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.	12 Golf Committee Meeting 2:00 p.m. BINGO 5:00 p.m.	13 Membership Meeting 7:00 p.m.	14	15 TRIVIA CHALLENGE with Lou Pratt 7:00 p.m.	16 NMB St. Patrick's Parade St Patrick Day Luncheon 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
17	18 BOD Mtg 3:00 p.m. Monday Nite Special Dining 4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.	19 BINGO 5:00 p.m.	20	21 STEAK Stake Night 4:30 – 6:30	22	23 Saturday Night at the Lodge "Christina Black" 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
24	25 Monday Nite Special Dining 4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. New Member Orientation 6:30 p.m.	26 BINGO 5:00 p.m.	27 Membership Meeting & Initiation of New Members 7:00 p.m.	28 PIZZA Pizza Night 4:30 – 6:30	29	30 Saturday Night at the Lodge "TBD" 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
31						

March 2023 Calabash Elks v2 1/14/2024



A Couple of Quick Notes About Your Annual Dues & New Membership Card

ANNUAL DUES - Renewal notices have been mailed to each member of our Lodge from the Grand Lodge. These notices have been sent to the "address of record" that we have on file for you. If you have moved in the past year, you need to let our Lodge Secretary know your current mailing address if you have not already done so. Once you pay your dues, our Lodge Secretary will be mailing out your membership card for the 2024 - 2025 Elks Year. They will be mailed via Bulk Mail at the end of the first week in March so that you will get it by April 1, 2024. And - DON'T FORGET - even though you may have received your new card, DO NOT throw away your current Membership Card (the Light Brown one) as you will need it to gain access to the Lodge up until April 1, 2024, as your new card does not kick in until then. See the flyer below.

As in previous years, you may pay your dues in any one of four ways:

- Check through the mail or dropped off at the bar
- Cash dropped off at the bar
- Credit card at the bar (not during busy times like Monday and Friday comfort food, and Dinner Dances)
- Credit card through the Grand Lodge Revopay website



**WE ASK FOR YOUR COOPERATION
IN THIS IMPORTANT MATTER**

Beginning on April 1, 2024

In Order to Gain Admission to this Lodge,
ALL ELKS will be required to show their
Membership Card
for Elks Year 2024-2025

Accordingly, the Officers of this Lodge will be doing
what you have elected them to do—protecting the
interests of this Lodge and that of all its members!

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**\* An Officer of this Lodge will be posted at the entrance  
to our Lounge where the Key Card Reader is located, and  
will be personally asking to see your Current Membership Card  
for Elks Year 2024-2025**




**WE ASK FOR YOUR COOPERATION  
IN THIS IMPORTANT MATTER**

**Just a Reminder . . .**


To Gain Entry  
to the Lodge  
On – or – After  
April 1, 2024



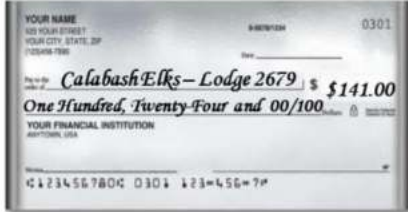
**USE THIS,**



**NOT THIS,**



**OR  
BRING  
THIS!**





Another issue of the “Sandpiper” in the well. I hope you found it informative and enjoyed some of the humor and happenings at our Elks Lodge. The Communications & Marketing Committee would like to thank all of you for your contributions to the world of Elkdom, after all without our members we would be just a building.

Stay well, stay involved and above all “Be an Elk”.

**Just a reminder that if you really wanna know and learn what goes on at the Lodge, attend meetings. It’s the best way to find out everything there is to know and meet and have fellowship with your Elk family. All meetings are on the Calendars**

Until next issue then and remember if you have anything you feel should be in the Sandpiper or have any ideas for it. You can email me at [Sandpiper@CalabashElks.org](mailto:Sandpiper@CalabashElks.org)



# Elks Invite



## Lounge Hours

Monday thru Saturday = 12:00 Noon - 9:00 p.m.

During Special events the lodge will be open until 10:00 p.m.

Sunday 12:00 Noon - 7:00 p.m.

(Bartenders Discretion)

Bar/Bartender = 910.579.4600 ~ Option #2

## Kitchen Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

LUNCH = 12:00 Noon - 3:00 p.m.

Monday Night 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday Night during BINGO = 5:00 - 6:45 p.m.

Friday Night = 4:30 - 7: 00 p.m.

Saturdays When Entertainment is Offered - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Times Other Than Above - Bar Food Only

## Office Hours

Monday & Thursday ~ 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

Office (Secretary) = 910.579.4600 Option #1