

North  
Carolina



**December January 2024**



**North Carolina Elks will be holding their annual Leadership Training seminar at the Greensboro Lodge in February.**

**All Elks are invited to attend this informative event.**

**An agenda and registration information will be forthcoming in early February**

**More information is published on page 5.**



## Message from State President Mark Alderman

With the holidays behind us, we can now focus on the upcoming events for the 2024 year. I hope everyone had the opportunity to see the Elks fabulous patriotic Rose Bowl Parade float, a great honor for the BPOE USA! The Elks paid tribute to our Veterans keeping our promise As Long As There Are Veterans The Elks Will Never Forget Them and We Never Have.

We have new opportunities and challenges. First and foremost our first priority is the continued growth of our membership, and we all as Elks are on the Lodge Membership team, there is plenty of time to propose a new member, encourage a delinquent member to pay their dues and invite someone to be reinstated. Also if a member is having difficulty for what ever reason paying their dues maybe the Lodge can help out. To date we have gained 905 new members , but we have lost 474 and have 673 members who have not paid their dues. There are 143 candidates waiting to be initiated, make arrangements to get them into your Lodge. Shake things up, initiations do not have to be performed during regular Lodge meetings. Lodges can help each other out with group initiations. WE ARE THE ELKS and I believe we can have our third straight year of membership gain.

The Leadership Training Seminar is fast approaching and will be held February 24, 2024 at the Greensboro Elks Lodge. The Leadership Team continues to prepare some exciting training topics that will be of value to you and your Lodge. Whether you are a new or upcoming officer or have been an officer for years, there will be information for you. This will be a great opportunity to gain valuable information! You do not have to be an officer as this seminar is open to all ELKS.

February is the month all Lodges are preparing our officers for the 2024/2025 year beginning April 1. Your PER's and senior officers are a great source of information to help you choose the new officers for your Lodge. Try to get new members on your team, they have may many new ideas to help your Lodge grow and be visible in your community. Now is the time to think about awards for your officers and members. If there is an Outstanding Member, consider nominating them for the prestigious Thad Eure Award, which is open to all Elks, not just ER's, PER's, DD's or PSP's. Every Lodge has a deserving Elk that could be nominated for the highest award the State Elks could bestow upon them. The Veteran Service Volunteer of the Year, ER of the Year and All American Lodge and several other awards are out there.

[Continued on following page.](#)

## State Presidents Message Continued

The Convention Committee did an awesome job in preparing the Fall Convention in Charlotte and are busy preparing the agendas for the Spring Convention in Wilmington in May. The committee continues to revamp and streamline our conventions for your pleasure and learning experience. We will also be hosting the Virginia and South Carolina Presidents and spouses and there will be opportunities to meet and talk with them. During the Spring Convention your new incoming State President Joe Clancy, from Sanford Lodge will be installed along with the new State Officers. As always the State Convention is open to all Elks and their guest not just officers. Make plans to attend the Grand Lodge Convention in Austin Texas in July, and support your new State President Joe Clancy and your North Carolina Elks Association.

Remember To Embrace the Principals of Our Order CHARITY, JUSTICE, BROTHERLY LOVE and FIDELITY

Fraternally,  
Mark A. Alderman, President

## BPO Elks Participate in the 2024 Rose Bowl Parade





## Message From Grand Exalted Ruler Randy P Shook

### 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 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.



# LEADERSHIP TRAINING



## **Greensboro Elks Lodge #602**

2201 W Cornwallis Dr.

Greensboro, NC 27408

(336) 288-5100

## **SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2024**

**10:00am – 3:00pm**

**>> LUNCH \$10 <<**

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





**NORTH CAROLINA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION  
SPRING 2024 CONVENTION  
MAY 2nd—4th 2024**

**BALLAST HOTEL, WILMINGTON NC**

Mark your calendar, the NCSEA returns to Wilmington for the Spring annual meeting of the North Carolina State Elks Association.

Centrally located downtown on the Cape Fear River Walk and the many restaurants and boutique shops.

Close to Wrightsville Beach and Carolina Beach for those wishing to stay and make it a mini holiday.



# PER Auction at Spring Convention



The NCSEA Past Exalted Rulers Association will again be holding their auction during the Spring convention in Wilmington to support their grant program to North Carolina Lodges.

Each Lodge is requested to bring at least one item to be auction off. Members may also donate items.

Plan to attend this fun event!

## Ritual Contest at Spring Convention

**Start practicing now!!!**

At the Spring meeting in Wilmington, 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.

Reminder, there is now only one version of the Toast, which reads

**"This is to remind us that with Elks the hour of eleven has a tender significance."**

The highest scoring ER or PER in each contest will have the privilege of representing North Carolina at the Grand Lodge competition in Minneapolis.

**Start working on your Toast and Flag Charge!**

**David King, NC Ritual Chair.**



# NCSEA MAJOR PROJECT CAMP CAREFREE FUNDRAISER

## Camp **JAIL HOUSE ROCK** Carefree **GALA**



**March 2, 2024**

Doors open 6:00pm  
Food 7:00pm  
DJ 7:30 - 11:00pm



Silent Auction  
Photo Booth



Elks Lodge #602  
2201 W. Cornwallis Drive  
Greensboro NC 27408



**Tickets \$25**

**Hamburgers ~ Hot Dogs ~ French Fries**

### **Sponsorships!**

Gold \$500 8 tickets and Reserved table  
Silver \$250 4 tickets  
Bronze \$100 2 tickets  
All sponsors will be featured in the program



For information contact  
Joni Park  
336.686.4786





## YTD REPORT FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The January membership report shows that our current total is 10,712. That is over 500 more than we ended up with last year. That sounds good until you figure in the 673 delinquent members on our rolls. There are 148 candidates in waiting, so we need to get all of those in before March 31 if we are going to stand a chance to have a third straight year of growth. If we can get all of those candidates in, plus bring back some of the delinquents and find a way to get some more new members, then we will have a shot at reaching our goal. This will only happen if we focus on our objective to increase membership. I would like to point out that the East District is the only District currently with a membership increase. The East Central, West Central and West are showing a membership loss. There is still time to correct that, but not too much time!

I would like to congratulate the top Lodges in each District for their outstanding work year to date. Oak Island is showing a membership gain of 56 new Elks, Raleigh is at a plus 34, Hickory is at plus 17 and Reidsville is at plus 16. Of our 32 Lodges, only 16 are showing growth this year. We can achieve our goal if each Lodge is committed to making that a priority. For more information contact your District Membership Committee representative or email me at [jpadlawrence@yahoo.com](mailto:jpadlawrence@yahoo.com). Thank you for your assistance!

John Lawrence, PSP. NCSEA Membership Chairman



# News From the East District

## CALABASH MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN CHRISTMAS IN CALABASH

The Christmas parade and celebration in Calabash featured the appearance of Santa and Mrs. Claus (Elk Members Mark Kerr and Juanita Adams). Santa rode in on a Fire Department truck while Mrs. Clause mingled with the crowd passing out letters that the kids can send to Santa. Santa will then send each child a personal note from the North Pole. Following the parade Santa greeted the children for a photo op.





## MOREHEAD CITY BEAUFORT HOLDS CHRISTMAS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

The Morehead City Lodge held a Christmas party with the Boys and Girls Club of Morehead City and a family in need. On December 6<sup>th</sup> the lodge fed the kids and Santa handed out gifts. There were 13 children and 15 Elks present for the event.



## MOREHEAD CITY BEAUFORT LODGE PROVIDES SUPPLIES FOR HOMELESS VETERANS



The Morehead City Beaufort Lodge provided sleeping bags, pads, flashlights, hand warmers, blankets, stove and tents which had been donated to Lodge or by the Lodge to give to the Homeless veterans in need. A big thanks goes out to Diane Apraham and her friends which donated most of the items.

Hopefully these supplies will make them warmer and safer this Holiday season.

From left to right: Lodge members - Diane Apraham, Ray Boulanger, PSP Ron Delzer, and Patrick Byan.

## CALABASH ELKS ANGEL TREE PROVIDES CHRISTMAS FOR 74 CHILDREN

The Calabash Elks Lodge members selected 74 Angels from a Christmas Tree, then went shopping for the child they had selected. A total of 74 bags of presents were collected. Fifty bags full of presents were picked up at the Lodge for students at Waccamaw Elementary School, while another 24 were delivered to Union Elementary School.

Accepting the gifts from Santa (Lodge Member Mark Kerr) was Waccamaw School Secretary Robin Beane.





## OAK ISLAND ELKS USE SPOTLIGHT GRANT TO FURNISH HOMES FOR VETERANS

The Oak Island Lodge Veterans Committee visited the Veterans Welcome Home Resource Center in Little River SC, an organization that provides Veterans with Tiny Homes as transitional housing. The Committee used their National Spotlight Grant of \$2,000 to help furnish the new Tiny Homes.

The Veterans Committee provided an additional \$1,000 Lowes Gift card along with twenty individual \$25.00 Walmart gift cards to assist Veterans who need a boost to get through the holidays.

Pictured L-R; Cindy Oppenheimer; Chuck Wimer, Director of the Hutton House; and Mary Jo Schnepf.



## ELIZABETH CITY LODGE PROVIDES SCHOOL NURSES WITH SUPPLIES FOR STUDENTS



The Elizabeth City Lodge used a \$1500 Charitable Trust grant to support an important initiative in the greater Elizabeth City area. The United Way that serves the area established a new program, the Community Care Collaborative—School Nurse Project. Local school nurses have been buying necessary personal items for students who cannot afford basic hygiene essentials. The funds will be used by the Collaborative to purchase the needed supplies, which will be delivered to school nurses to meet the needs of students. This is an important need because many of the adolescents in our community live below the poverty level and cannot afford basic necessities. This will allow these children and adolescents to take care of their personal needs without embarrassment.

The grant was a significant boost to the program, extending the reach of school nurses to meet the pressing needs of area young people.

Pictured: Elizabeth City Trustee Joanne Inman PER presents a check to Marsha Venture, director of the Albemarle Area United Way Community Care Collaborative.

## MOREHEAD CITY/BEAUFORT HOLDS CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB



The Morehead City/Beaufort Elks held a Christmas party with the Boys and Girls Club of Morehead City and a family in need. On December 6<sup>th</sup> The lodge fed the kids and Santa handed out gifts. There were 13 children and 15 Elks present for the event.

## MOREHEAD CITY BEAUFORT HOLDS HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY FOR BINGO PLAYERS

During its weekly bingo on October 31st, the Morehead City Lodge held a costume contest with the winners getting free papers for the next week.





## OAK ISLAND LODGE DONATES TO NEW HOPE CLINIC



The Oak Island Elks Lodge recently donated \$2000 to the New Hope Clinic. The clinic's mission is to provide quality medical, dental and pharmacy services to low income uninsured Brunswick County adults in a caring patient centered setting."

Pictured from the clinic Sheila Roberts and Elk John Borklund.

### In other news from the Oak Island Lodge

The Oak Island Elks Lodge recently contributed over 450 volunteer hours to support "Pledge the Pink". Over 1400 men and women from 44 states and 8 countries came to Oak Island NC to support breast cancer awareness. Lodge members helped unload trucks, stage materials and operate a rest station for the event."

The Oak Island Elks Lodge recently used part of an ENF Beacon Grant to purchase hygiene items for Communities in Schools (CIS) and purchase a motorized kayak for the Davis Canal Marsh Cleaners.

## CALABASH VETERANS COMMITTEE DONATES TO BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE "PAVE" PROGRAM

Calabash NC Lodge Veteran's Affairs Committee \$2000.00 donation to the Brunswick Community College's 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.

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



## CALABASH LODGE DONATES TO LIFECARE VETERANS SERVICES

The Calabash Lodge Veteran's Affairs Committee recently made a \$1000.00 donation to the Lower Cape Fear LifeCare Veteran Services. As a member of the We Honor Veterans Program of the Department of Veteran's Affairs, the mission of this Program is to assist hospice and palliative care patients 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 (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

**We Are THE** 



# CALABASH ELKS BINGO DONATES TO LOCAL NON PROFITS

The Calabash Elks Bingo Committee presented ten local charities with checks totaling \$25,000. The charities, listed below, represent a cross section of the community that provide vital services and resources to many who are in need.



**Organizations and representatives in the front row from left to right are:**

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

**Organizations and representatives in the back row from left to right are:**

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

# News From the East Central District

## RALEIGH LODGE SELLS ENGRAVED BRICKS FOR LODGE IMPROVEMENT



The Raleigh Lodge needed a sidewalk from the back parking lot to the Lodge. So they sold engraved bricks to memorialize loved ones, etc. After paying for the bricks, other materials, and some labor (some of it was Elk sweat equity), they even made a small profit!

## RALEIGH ELKS DELIVER CHRISTMAS BAGS TO VA HOSPITAL

Raleigh Elks Lodge members Becky Hiller and Terry Rodabaugh delivered 40 Christmas bags, donated by our members and 40 Amazon gift cards, donated by a grant from Grand Lodge to the Durham VA hospital, so the residents might have a little cheer for the holiday!

One of the Veteran recipients pictured is Larry Pender. He served in the Air Force for 21 years and retired from the Pentagon. He also happens to be our member, Deana Parrish's dad!





## SOUTHERN PINES MAKES CHRISTMAS MORNING DELIVERY

Southern Pines Elks made a Christmas Morning Delivery of Cheer to Police, Emergency and Fire Personnel.

A team of Southern Pines Elks, headed by David and Melissa Rudd, delivered 154 breakfasts Christmas morning. Our breakfast cheer recipients grew from 93 in 2022 to 154 this year! The Elks wanted to show our support and give back to our public servants. The recipients included Police, Emergency and Firemen within 19-mile radius, to include Southern Pines, Aberdeen, Pinehurst, Carthage, Vass, Pine Bluff, West End and Eagle Springs. Altogether, 12 Fire Stations, MCSO, MC911, MCEMS and 5 Police Departments received breakfast meals, water, utensils, cookies and a Christmas card. All were well received and appreciated. [Elks Care, Elks Share.](#)



## RALEIGH LODGE HOLDS CLOTHING DRIVE

The Raleigh Elks clothing drive for "A note in the pocket" was held January 6th through the 16th. The bins of donations overflowed and filled 72 bags!

Note in the Pocket's mission is to provide quality clothing to homeless and impoverished children and families with dignity and love.



Pictured left L-R; Cheryl Howard; Michelle Delaire, PER, DD; Dallas Bonavita, Executive Director; Gavin Albury, Operations Director

## RALEIGH ELKS DONATE CHRISTMAS TREES TO VETERANS

One day, sitting in the Raleigh Elks Lodge Social Quarters, 2 members made a decision to take up a collection to purchase Christmas trees from our tree lot and donate them to Veterans who might not have one otherwise. Some of the recipients preferred an artificial tree, so they were purchased and delivered as well!

Pictured left; Raleigh Elks members Dennis Wofford and Bud Christianson, the heroes who made this happen.

Pictured right; ER Gary Bush is pictured with Douglas Boyd, one of the Veteran recipients.



**Elks** Care — **Elks** Share



## RALEIGH LODGE HOLDS “HATS FORE HEARTS” DAY

Another successful Hats Fore Hearts day in Moore Square on December 23. Volunteers packed 140 gifts containing hats, gloves, socks, hand warmers, \$10-20, a few scratch off cards and holiday candies!

This was made possible with proceeds from the Raleigh Elks Golf Tournament in May. There were many smiling faces!

Hats Fore Hearts is an idea born from giving through golf. Our goal is to raise money through our golf tournaments each year and at other events and to give all the money back to the homeless at Christmas. This program strives to have a hands-on feel where we give the hats and a hug to each of the homeless. It is meant to be a gift of hope and a wish for better days ahead for those who are most vulnerable and hopefully gives a warm feeling to their heart and a meal in their hand.



Above, preparing the supplies to hand out. Below, is a few of the Elks volunteers; BJ Cayton, Billy Carrington-Smith and Debra Baker.



## RALEIGH LODGE HONORS VEITNAM POW/MIA'S

The North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc. and the Raleigh Elks Lodge presented "Etchings in Stone", A Play About The National Vietnam Veterans Memorial, at the lodge on January 20 and 21. The play was free to the public and very well attended.

The program opened with The NC Airforce ROTC from NC State University at the Vietnam POW/MIA table.

This was a very powerful and emotional depiction of the memories and feelings of our servicemen and women upon their visit to the memorial wall.

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans!





# News From the West Central District

## SALISBURY ELKS SHARE WARMTH WITH HOMELESS VETERANS

The Salisbury Elks Lodge recently provided new, warm items to local veterans. With the assistance of the Salisbury VA Homeless Veterans Programs, the lodge donated coats, hats, gloves, scarfs, thermals and snacks to homeless veterans.

“Our motto is Elks Care -Elks Share and that’s especially true when it comes to our veterans,” said Rich Penk, Salisbury 699 ENF Grant Coordinator. “Thanks to funds received from the national Freedom and Beacon Grants, we are able to share the warmth of the season with veterans in need in very tangible ways.”

The lodge also provided hats, gloves, scarfs, underwear, sweatshirts and sweatpants, toiletries and snacks to veterans residing at the Salisbury Veterans Home.

## HIGH POINT ELKS SUPPORT HOLIDAY HEROES CENTER DINNER

The High Point Elks Lodge supported the 2023 High Point Holiday Heroes Center Dinner. This event was attended by several lodge members, including one who was a guest speaker. The High Point Lodge also donated \$500 in Gift Cards for the 200 active-duty military, veterans and family members.





# LAKE NOMAN LODGE DELIVERS 40 WELCOME HOME KITS

On December 19<sup>th</sup> of 2023, members of the Lake Norman Elks Lodge #392 engaged in their largest Homeless Veteran program to date. At the beginning of December, Veterans Chairman, Mike Flock learned that the Charlotte, NC Veterans Administration team (led by Jaderian Ackerman with HUD-VASH Housing of Veterans Affairs) was working on housing 40 homeless veterans in a newly constructed apartment complex, Eastway Crossings, in Charlotte. Few details were initially available, but the members unanimously voted for attempting to put a Welcome Home Kit into each Veterans apartment.

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, members were informed that these Veterans will begin moving in on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup>. The Veterans Activities Committee sprang into action. In a matter of 5 days, the members of Lake Norman Elks Lodge purchased 40 of every item that is provided in a Welcome Home Kit. Budget of 12K! of which Grand Lodge will reimburse us with proper documentation / receipts to be submitted. Multiple shopping trips to multiple stores, along with online purchasing, were required. ER Shelly Sperling; PERs Kathy Hulla, Jim Mulvihill, Bob Burke; Chaplin Anne Burke, and PDDGERS Mike Flock, John Hulla completed the shopping on Monday afternoon.

On Tuesday December 19<sup>th</sup> it was all hands on for delivery, assembly, and distribution of 40 Welcome Home kits. A 20-foot box truck was rented to pick up items from the members who made purchases. The truck was unloaded at the apartment complex and all items transported to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the building. The assembly line for putting the kits together was an impressive sight to behold. With precision and efficiency, the kits were assembled and ready to be delivered in a few hours. Members (including the above along with Rick Thayer and Jack Kirkland and new member to be Hannah Modaffari), family & friends of the Elks, VA personnel, and other sincere volunteers made quick work of the task. With enthusiasm, the kits were delivered across the 4 floors of the complex to eagerly awaiting Veterans. The final kit was delivered at 5 pm.



## **HIGHT POINT ELKS PROVIDES CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR HOMELESS VETERANS**

The High Point Elks Lodge provided Christmas Dinner for veterans at the Arthur Cassell Transitional House in High Point. This house is for homeless veterans transitioning into permanent housing. Our lodge also has donated over 20 Welcome Home Kits to them during the past year.



## **HIGH POINT LODGE ASSISTS MARINE VETERAN**

The High Point Lodge donated \$500 and Christmas gifts to a Marine veteran and his family whose house was totally destroyed by a fire the week before Christmas.





## LAKE NORMAN LODGE DELIVERS BEDS TO CHARLOTTE VETERANS HOME



Lake Norman Lodge member Andy Schlessler with Sweet Dreams Mattress & Furniture delivered 11 beds to the veterans at Eastway Crossings in Charlotte last week. This is the place where we assembled and delivered 40 welcome home kits to the veterans moving in to Eastway Crossings the week before Christmas. Not all 40 veterans needed beds, but 11 did.

Pictured center are Elk Andy Schlessler with Sweet Dreams Mattress & Furniture, and Jaderian Ackerman the local VA housing specialist. On left and right are Sweet Dreams employees.

## MT AIRY LODGE HOLDS BRUNSWICK STEW FUNDRAISER

The Mount Airy Elks Lodge Motorcycle Committee had a Brunswick stew fundraiser Saturday January 20, 2024 where they sold 25 gallons of stew in quart containers. It took over five hours to prepare. All the monies will go to the our Charity Fund and used accordingly to the need. Thanks to several Winston Salem Lodge members for coming up to support our fundraiser.





# News From the West District

## HICKORY ELKS PARTICIPATE IN CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Hickory Elks Lodge participated in the City of Hickory's Christmas Parade. The Lodge float was fantastic! Five Lodge members who are Veteran's rode on the float. Ten other Elks and six non Elks marched with banners for every committee and passed out over 550 pounds of candy to the children. Elroy, the Drug Awareness Committee Mascot, danced his way thru the parade while giving hugs and shaking hands with the children along the route.



## SHELBY LODGE PURCHASES FOOD FOR “FEEDING KIDS CLEVELAND COUNTY”



The Shelby Lodge used a Beacon Grant to purchase food for Feeding Kids Cleveland County.

160 families received food during the Thanksgiving and Christmas school breaks.

## HICKORY LODGE HONORS VIETNAM VETERAN MEMBER



During the annual Veterans Day ceremony held at the Hickory Elks Lodge on November 11, 2023, Vietnam Combat Veteran, Chuck Crawford III was presented a plaque and a medal with our thanks. Mr. Crawford’s honor to our country is recognized with military awards that include three Bronze Stars, Purple Heart , four Army Commendation Medals with Valor, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal with the Device 60, as well as many others. In addition to his service to the country, Mr. Crawford can be found working behind the scenes at the Hickory Elks Lodge providing service to his community. On behalf of the Hickory Elks Lodge, we would like to take this time to thank him for his service to this great nation and to the people of the Hickory community.





## HICKORY ELKS DEDICATE ELK STATUE



The Hickory Lodge dedicated their new Elk statue standing tall in front of the Lodge.

This was thanks to all the members who contributed and making this wonderful statue possible.

## SHELBY ELKS USE GRANT TO ASSIST VETERANS

Shelby Lodge used Freedom Grant funds to purchase food and personal items for veterans and their families.

Cleveland County Veterans Service Officers identified and distributed to veterans needing assistance.





# HICKORY ELKS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH VETERANS AT BLACK MOUNTAIN HOME

The Hickory Elks Lodge brought Christmas to the NC State Veterans Home at Black Mountain. Elks Lodge members with the help of our state veteran volunteer, Joe Elko. Provided a gift for each of the 74 residents including lotion, throw blanket and slipper socks. We provided a music program hosting local singer LaKeisha Johnson, dressed as Mrs. Claus, who wowed the audience with her beautiful vocals and cheerful Christmas music. Our lodge president dressed as Santa Claus and visited every room to ask them what they wanted for Christmas.



Pictured: Jay Tate, Skip Rheinart, Charlie Self, Tim Herndon, Linda Dodson, Beth Bolick, Mary Elko, Karl Kuehn, Cary Bowman as Santa, Samantha Bowman and Carole Anderson.



# HICKORY LODGE ATTENDS VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

Members of the Hickory Elks Lodge attended Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) proceedings Thursday November 9th. The Elk's Lodge provided a meal for Veterans Day to the veterans and their mentors in attendance. As part of our ongoing support several of our members are mentors including Cary Bowman and Tim Brinson. (Pictured) We also support the veterans in the VTC with our NC State Charitable Trust Grant providing emergency housing in the way of a short term hotel stay to new enrollees awaiting housing placement. The VTC program is for veterans in the court system with a diagnoses related to their time in service. These veterans can now get intervening treatment instead of jail time.

Pictured left to right: Carole Anderson Hickory Elks Lodge PER and Secretary; Tim Brinson, Elk and Veteran Mentor to participants; Tammy West Veteran Court Advocate; Judge David Aycok also a veteran; Samantha Bowman Elks Veterans Committee; and Veteran Cary Bowman ER and mentor; Veteran Jared Weaver Court Coordinator; Veteran Mike Cloy Mentor Coordinator; and Bailiff Veteran Scott Loflin.







## HICKORY LODGE HOLDS SOCCER SHOOT

On Sunday Nov 14th Hickory Elks Youth Committee held a Soccer Shoot Out competition for area youth. 21 Elks came out to assist with registration, judging and scoring. This included Derrick Sims, NC State Soccer Shoot Chair and Lisa Parrish who came from Roxboro to help us with this event.

We had 25 participants in the Soccer Shoot ranging in age from 4 to 16. They competed against others in their age group for the most points. The under 8 group kicked 3 balls into 5 different goals with each one narrower than the one before it. The 8-15 group kicked 5 balls 3 times into a gridded soccer net for points. Boys and Girls competed separately. All the participants were invited to a hot dog dinner on Dec 12th at the Elks Lodge where the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be given medals. The 1st place winner in each category will have a chance to compete in the State Soccer Shoot on January 6th. The winners of that Soccer Shoot will move on to Regionals in Florida.



**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](mailto:ashbuc@atmc.net)**