



Exalted Ruler

Lodge 497

Well, we made it through another Elk year, and boy was it a good one! I would like to thank the membership for their overwhelming support and vote of confidence for our Leadership Team going into 2026-2027. Congratulations to the following officers for being elected: Rick Johnston-5 Year Trustee, Wayne Barr Esteemed Leading Knight, Tammy Eddins Esteemed Loyal Knight, Ingo Starke Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Kathy Lancaster Secretary, and Tammy Wilson Treasurer. Together with our returning Trustees, Ramsey Landry-4 Year Trustee, Jan Alverson-3 Year Trustee, Gary Booker-2 Year Trustee, and Trish Welch 1Year-Trustee, we are ready to work even harder to keep our Lodge the best in the Great Northwest District.

March was a lot of fun, and we have made so many new friends at all of the lodge events. The Northwest District Corn Hole Tournament & Crawfish Boil was a huge success!

We had over 300 people in attendance, went through 550 pounds of crawfish, served over 100 "burgers & brats", and raised over \$9000 for Elks Charities. Dave Smith provided great live music for the crowd, we gave away close to 15K in retail merchandise, and Team Sonny Reedy and Jon Watts kept the Northwest Corn Hole Championship Trophy right where it belongs, in Lodge 497! But they were under pressure all day by the second-place team of Rick Johnston and his son Brandon Johnston, also from our lodge!

The Crawfish Boilers from LaPlace Louisiana, David Ratliff and Randy Rebaldo did another award-winning boil and can't wait to return to help us with our charity events. Special thanks to Greg & Ingrid Pomeroy for their tireless dedication and leadership for this event. We couldn't have done it without you. There were so many volunteers from parking lot security, cooks, ticket sales, cleanup crews, score keepers, transportation crews, bar backs, etc. etc., and I thank you tremendously! OUR VOLUNTEERS ROCK!!! Speaking of volunteers, we thank Johnny and Brad, "Smoking Jokers" for their services in the kitchen over the past months. The dinners were delicious, and all of the serve teams did a fantastic job serving our members and guests. Because their schedule won't allow them to continue, we now have the opportunity for YOU, that's right, YOU to volunteer to bring in your cooking team and prepare a meal on Friday night. See Terri, our "Energizer Bunny" like Club Manager to volunteer for Friday Night Dinner. Our Policy: No volunteer will be left behind. The

dinner menu will not be posted in the Hoof Prints so keep up with us on FB and your Constant Contacts. (Please do not reply to Constant Contacts) I also want to give a special thanks to Peter and Susan Comer for hosting an amazing Pizza Night! Peter, Susan, and their team of volunteers brought in their own outdoor ovens and prepared and baked the best pizza on the planet and then delivered them upstairs to our beautifully decorated dining area (thanks Terri) for everyone to enjoy. If you missed it, I hate it for you. What a great night! Thank you to Trish Welch, Deidre Glynn, Tom Kennedy and his son Kyle, Sous Chef from The District, Downtown Pensacola, for a delicious treat at Monday Night Bingo, Shepherd's Pie and Bread Pudding! Dang, that was good! Excellent! If you showed up for dinner on March 17th, then you were as lucky as the Irish and got to enjoy an amazing plate of Corned Beef & Cabbage prepared and served by the Fantastic Four, Jay & Kim Martin, and Tina & Trina, "The Twins". Outstanding job you guys!!

Let's hear it for the best LOE group in the State of Florida!! Thank you, ladies, for all of your help around the lodge and for a stellar Annual Kids Easter Party and Egg Hunt! Everyone had a great time and best of all, the smiles and laughter from the children. The Easter Bunny made an appearance and stayed for many pictures with the children. Thank you, Easter Bunny!! Volunteer unknown. I can't leave you without mentioning membership. So, we have done an outstanding job as a lodge, growing our membership and will have a positive net gain this year and possibly lead the district in doing so. Thanks for strengthening our lodge and expanding our friendship circle! Our Early Bird Spaghetti Dinner, for members who paid their dues by March 9th was a sell out, then expanded to serve more, then sold out again! A tremendous Thankah Youah! to all who volunteered their time and energy to make it a successful event and special thanks to Jim Rodriguez PER for cooking the spaghetti and Kathy Lancaster and her team for handing out new membership cards to those who have paid.

In closing, know that the Veterans, women, and children, and others in need that we serve thank you even more than I do.

See you at the Lodge!
Fraternally,
Greg Eddins
Exalted Ruler

Ladies of the Elks

It's Spring! A time for new beginnings and a new Elk Year. With that said there are new officers for the Ladies of the Elks. I am honored to be elected the new President of this great group of hardworking ladies. I am joined by Deanna Barr Vice President; Joy Jackson Secretary; Debbie Hanners Treasurer, & Engrid Spade Chaplain. We have big shoes to fill and we are looking forward to a year of growth, new ideas, making money for charity and FUN!

We appreciate everyone's support in our fundraising efforts throughout the year so that we can give generously to The Florida Elks Youth Camp and Elks Children Therapies, as well as our local women's and children's charities. Under Jamie Ferbezar's leadership we raised over \$12,000 for charity this past year!

Independence for the Blind

\$1800 sponsorship for 2 children to attend summer camp

Faith House (homeless female veterans)

\$1800 toward plumbing repairs

Valerie's House (children's grief counseling)

\$1500 sponsorship of 2 children for 6 months of grief counseling

Santa Rosa Kids House

\$1800 industrial Laminator

Morning Star High School (special needs)

\$1800 Kiln & Kiln rolling cart



Jamie, Barbara Frances (Faith House) & Charlotte



Independence for the Blind



Jamie, Kelley Sanders (Santa Rosa Kids House) & Charlotte

We will start selling tickets for our Mother's Day Basket April 2 and the drawing will be May 7. Lee Tracy has graciously donated a necklace, bracelet and earrings by Tat2 valued at \$650. There will be lots of other goodies too! Be sure to get your tickets!

The ladies are off to Umatilla for the FLOE Retreat April 17-19. If you didn't get your tickets this year be sure you don't miss it next time. It's a great way to get to meet other LOEs from around the state.

The Ladies will be sponsoring a Kentucky Derby Party, Sat. May 2. More information to come; get your Hats and Derbys ready!

We would like to welcome our newest members, Darlene Hurst, Nancy Bradley, and Myra Gallagher. If you would like to learn more about Ladies of the Elks please join us at our next meeting Thursday May 2, 2026 at 6:30 on the 3rd floor. We want to be respectful of your time so we will endeavor to keep meetings to an hour or less!

See Ya' at the Lodge!

Charlotte Field

Welcome New ELKs Members



Exalted Ruler	Greg Eddins
Leading Knight	Wayne Barr
Loyal Knight	Tammy Eddins
Lecturing Knight	Ingo Starke
Secretary	Kathy Lancaster
Treasurer	Tammy Wilson
Esquire	Scott Field
Tiler	Tom Luke
Chaplain	Christian Rabone
Inner Guard	Johnny Graves
Presiding Justice	John Unzicker
Lodge Advisor	Toni Palmer

BOD Chairman	Wayne Barr
5 Year Trustee	Rick Johnson
4 Year Trustee	Ramsey Landry
3 Year Trustee	Jan Alverson
2 Year Trustee	Gary Booker
1 Year Trustee	Trish Welch

Accident Prevention	Ramsey Landry
Americanism	TBA
Army of Hope	Cap Pratt
Asst. Dock Master	Dave Dalton, Jr.
Auditing	Scott Abel
Blood Bank	Celeste Whisenant
Club Manager	Terri Devinny
Community Activities	Celeste Whisenant
Dock Master	David Dalton
Drug Awareness	Brenda Purdy
ENF Fundraising	Sandy Milburn
ENF Grants	Sandy Milburn
ENF Scholarship	Tammy Eddins
Entertainment	Charlotte Field
Flag Day	Jan Alverson
Harry-Anna	Chris Wells
Hoof Prints	Steve Dupuis
Hoop Shoot	Sonny Reedy
Investigation	Ron Castle
Lapsation	Tammy Eddins
LOE President	Charlotte Field
Lodge Activities	Jan Alverson
Maintenance	Will "Dude" Hausmann
Marketing	Steve Dupuis
Mediator	Brooks Davis
Membership	Kathy Lancaster
Memorial Service	Greg Eddins
Nat'l. Foundation	Sandy Milburn
Nat'l Vet. Service	Carey Seigle
Orientation	Greg Eddins
Soccer Shoot	Matt Alt
Therapy Services	Chris Wells
Training	Greg Eddins
Under 40	Slater Dance
Veterans Services	Carey Seigle
Webmaster/PR	Steve Dupuis
Youth Camp	Larry Bragg

Past Exalted Rules (PERs)

Congratulations to the new and returning officers of the Lodge and Ladies of the Elks that were installed on March 29th! Here's to an incredible year for Pensacola Beach Elks Lodge #497 under your guidance. A special welcome goes out to Exalted Ruler Greg Eddins who joins the Past Exalted Rulers Association as the new President for the 2026/ 2027 Elk year.

Coming soon: Be on the lookout for the Past Exalted Ruler's Spring raffle of a Traeger Pellet Grill. Details to come!



Don Padget, PER

Past District Deputy, North West District Fl Elks
Children's Therapy Services Board President

Our lodge will be hosting the **District Deputy Clinic on Saturday, April 11th at 10AM**. All members are invited! Come & meet Elks from the other 5 District Lodges & learn about the great programs for the coming year.



Florida Elks Youth Camp June 21st-27th, 2026 Open for Registration

The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, would like to invite your child to Florida Elks Summer Youth Camp this summer. The camp is available for boys and girls between the ages of 9 through 13. Transportation to camp is being provided by Pensacola Beach Elks Lodge, #497. Permission to register for camp and ride the bus **MUST** be obtained from the lodge representative in charge. More info contact:

Larry Bragg
850-380-9275
or
Deanna Barr
850-207-2662

Elks Care & Save Lives

The Dan Smith Memorial Blood Drive

It was an amazing day on February 22nd at the Lodge, as so many came out to save lives by donating blood. Our phenomenal Elks, friends, and family donated 30 units of blood, which could potentially save 90 lives. There is no substitute for blood, and it cannot be manufactured in a lab. Therefore, the only source of blood for patients in need of a transfusion is volunteer blood donors.

We are so thankful for everyone who came out to donate. Our next quarterly blood drive will be in May, date TBA soon.



Celeste Whisenant
Blood Bank Chairman

HONOR ROLE

Thank you for participating in the blood drive at Pensacola Beach Elks Lodge #497 on Sunday, February 22nd

Jack Avery	David Evorik	Joann Rose
Carolyn Brown	Lori Fulford	Lisa Roy
Natalie Childs	Amy Hitchcock	Sophie Roy
Richard Corbett	Linda Hurst	Cheyenne Russell
Angela Cupps	Richard Johnston	Barbara Stahl
Russell Cupps	Barry Kelley	Michael Stahl
Elaine Davis	Kirsten Maples	Annette
Shan Davis	Frances Powell	Strucinski
Wah Davis	Craig Ready	Theodore
Paul Eddins	Saratina Riskie	Strucinski
Saralyn Englert	Robert Roque	Holly Wolf



Charity Corner.

At the Feb 26th 2026, Lodge meeting, members approved \$7,000 in charitable donations to support several area organizations.

Patriot Guard Riders \$1,000 • Christ Descendants \$2,000

Pensacola Beach Elementary Charter School \$2,000

Pensacola Beach Women's Club for their charities \$1,000

Washington High School 5K Run for needy Children's Christmas \$1,000

Club Manager

Hello Elks, it's great to see you all having a great time at the lodge, making memories. I hope you're enjoying the Friday night dinners. Please bear with us as we feature new volunteers cooking each Friday night, and our members generously give their time to make these events special. I'd like to extend my gratitude to all of our volunteers for their contributions to our events and for cooking on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. It's wonderful to see everyone coming together, volunteering, supporting each other and raising money for charity.

If you're interested in volunteering, please get in touch with me, Jan Alverson, or our Exalted Ruler. We'll be introducing a rotating draft selection, which will feature a cold beer or tasty cider while supplies last. We'll also continue our monthly craft cocktail. If you have any suggestions, please put them in my suggestion box.

We will have Lunch noon-3:30 every Monday and Dinner at 5pm. Bingo at 6 pm Wednesdays we will have Lunch Noon -3:30 Fridays Dinner Start at 5:30 reservations required every Friday. Saturday April 4th we will have a 70s theme Trivia starting 6pm. Saturday April 11th Karaoke starts at 6 pm.

Thanks to All,
See You at the Lodge

Terri

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Notice of vote to amend Pensacola Beach Lodge's Articles of Incorporation

A motion will be made at the regular lodge meeting (7PM), Thursday, April 23rd, 2026 to amend the corporation's Articles of Incorporation to comply with the recently changed Grand Lodge Statute 16.020:

The Lodge may amend its Lodge By-laws to include the Secretary and Treasurer as members of the Board of Directors, provided that the Lodge also makes any necessary amendments to its corporate documents:

- (a) To ensure that the Lodge By-laws are consistent with the corporate documents; and/or
- (b) As otherwise required by the laws of the state in which the Lodge is located."

The Articles currently read: ARTICLE V- MANAGEMENT, Section 1.-"The Board of Directors shall consist of not less than three and not more than nine persons." The amendment will now read "... not more than eleven persons."




















The Board of Directors has voted and approved this amendment.



Don Padget
Fraternally,

Vote for the Amendment
Thur, Apr 23rd at 7PM

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 PER Meeting 6:30 PM (2nd Flr)  LODGE Lunch Noon - 3:30 PM	2 LOE Meeting 6:30 PM Queen of Hearts ~8:00 PM	3 DINNER BLANE BUTLER 6:00-10:00 PM	4  70'S THEMED TRIVIA 6:00-'til PM
5 HAPPY Easter	6 Bingo 6:00 PM LODGE Lunch Noon - 3:30 PM 	7  Taco Tuesday 5:00 - 7:00 PM New Member Interviews Start 5:30PM	8  LODGE Lunch Noon - 3:30 PM	9 Lodge Meeting 7:00 PM Queen of Hearts ~8:00 PM	10 DINNER DIZZY JUKES 6:00-10:00 PM	11 DD Clinic 3rd flr PER 9AM / All 10AM LINE DANCING LESSONS 5:00 PM You Don't Need a Partner  KARAOKE w/Stacey Bday Bash 6:30-10:00 PM
12  DART LEAGUE 2:30 PM	13 LOE Officer Meeting 3:00 PM Bingo 6:00 PM LODGE Lunch Noon - 3:30 PM 	14  Taco Tuesday 5:00 - 7:00 PM	15  LODGE Lunch Noon - 3:30 PM	16 BOD Meeting & Governing Body 6:00 PM Queen of Hearts ~8:00 PM	17 DINNER EAST HILL BILLIES 6:00-10:00 PM	18
19  DART LEAGUE 2:30 PM	20 Bingo 6:00 PM LODGE Lunch Noon - 3:30 PM 	21  Taco Tuesday 5:00 - 7:00 PM New Member Orientation 6PM	22  LODGE Lunch Noon - 3:30 PM	23  Lodge Meeting & Initiation 7:00 PM Queen of Hearts ~8:00 PM	24 DINNER DEEP SOUTH - BAND - 6:00-10:00 PM	25
26  DART LEAGUE 2:30 PM	27 Bingo 6:00 PM LODGE Lunch Noon - 3:30 PM 	28  Taco Tuesday 5:00 - 7:00 PM	29  LODGE Lunch Noon - 3:30 PM	30 Queen of Hearts ~8:00 PM		

PENSACOLA BEACH ELKS LODGE DART LEAGUE

When:

Sunday Afternoon starting on April 12th. Sign in starts @ 2:30 Darts fly @ 3PM

What to Expect:

Casual, friendly competition Blind-draw partners each week Great drinks, great people, great atmosphere

MEMBERS, SPOUSES AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME.

Entry:

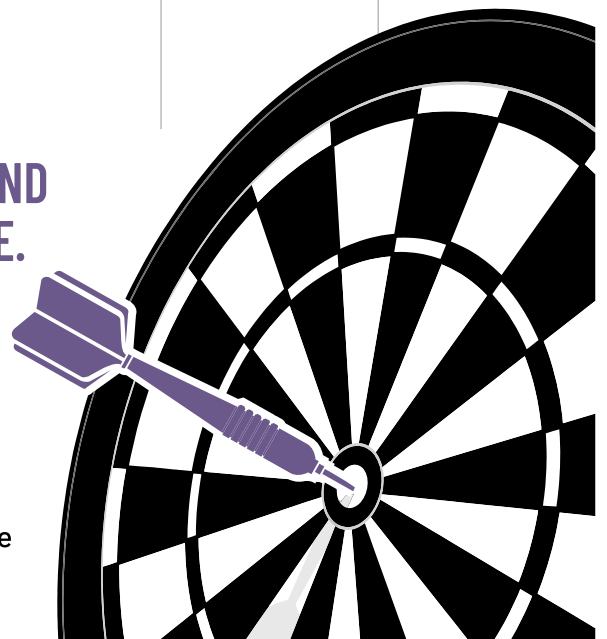
\$5 donation appreciated.

Ready to Play?

Sign up the day of the event.

Questions?

Contact Rick Johnston for more information. 850-525-9654



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**THIS COULD BE
YOUR BUSINESS AD**
CALL THE LODGE FOR MORE
INFORMATION

Take Care & God Bless...



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From the Secretary

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

If you have not paid for the 2026 - 2027 year or if you did not receive an invoice, please contact me as soon as possible. We have a 60-day grace period to reinstate your membership at no extra charge.

PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP

Great job on proposing new members this past year! We have added 205 new and reinstated members this past Elks year. Please make sure your prospects understand that they need to initiate within four months of application date or they can be declined and lose their application fee.

Thanks, See you at
The Lodge!

April

Interviews: Tuesday, Apr 7th on the 2nd floor beginning at 5:30pm. Please sign in at the table once you get off the elevator.

Orientation: Tuesday, Apr 21st 3rd floor 6pm.

Initiation Meeting: Thursday, Apr 23rd, Meet on the 2nd floor at 6:15pm for further instructions.

Kathy Lancaster
SecretaryElks497@gmail.com

Office Hours Mon & Thurs 1-5pm

Club Hours

Mon-Thurs : **Noon - Til**
Friday : **Noon - Til**
Saturday : **Noon - Til**
Sunday : **Noon - Til**

Phone: (850) 932-4444
Secretary: (850) 932-8050
Reservations: (850) 932-4444
Club Manager: elkslodge497@gmail.com
www.elks.org/Lodges/home.cfm?Lodgenumber=0497



Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks
P.O. Box 551
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Please attend Lodge meetings.
Project 50 Percent: One meeting a month, 12 hours a year. It's not too much to ask.

Or Current Resident

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