

State Soccer Winners
page 18

GEORGIA
Elks
NEWS



Highlights From
The Fall Meeting In
Toccoa pages 7-10

Savannah Lodge
Spring Meeting
Schedules page 17

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Editor's Comments & Table of Contents	3
Meet Grand Exalted Ruler T. Keith Mills	4
GEA President, Bob Colie Auxiliary President, Sarah Hendricks	5
Mike Smith, PGER, PNP Special Deputy, Bruce Hayden, PSP	6
Highlights from the Fall Meeting in Toccoa	7-10
News from Aidmore Calendar of Events	11-13 13
Aidmore Auxiliaries	14-16
Spring Meeting Schedules	17
Let's Play Soccer	18
Marietta Family Fun Day	19
Committee Reports	20
News from the Elk Lodges Around the State	21-27
PSP Tim Whalen's Minutes	28-29
Our Sponsors	2,3,29-32

I hope everyone had a great time with family and friends over the recent holidays and started the new year off with a renewed spirit.

We look forward to a great Spring Meeting at the Savannah Lodge in just a few short weeks and I am sure the folks in Savannah will do a wonderful job for all of us as hosts.

We will be welcoming our Grand Exalted Ruler T. Keith Mills and National First Lady Amy to Georgia at the Spring Meeting. Also attending our meeting will be the President-Elects from Florida (Mark Thompson and his wife Barbara), Alabama (Lester Collins and his wife Denise), and Mississippi (Jerry (Rusty) Stephens and his wife Lori).

Plan to attend and get to know our GER and guests from other states. The Spring Meeting schedules are on page 17.

Toccoa Lodge did an outstanding job hosting all of us for the Fall Meeting this past October. Thank you to all the Toccoa Elks and Auxiliary members for making us feel welcome. Some of the highlights from Toccoa are on pages 7-10.

Our cover this issue is graced with the winners from the State Soccer Shoot held at Aidmore in November. Pictured are Bob Pluta, NE Chair, Brian Russell, NW Chair and State Chairman Junior Roberson with the winners headed to Florida in January.

I hope to see you all at the spring meeting in Savannah, so until then have a Happy New Year and stay safe.



**Lynda Lewis
Editor, Ga Elks News**



**Bob Colie
President
2021-2022
Georgia Elks
Association**

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2021-2022**

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PAGE 3

**Lynda Lewis
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Thaine "Keith" Mills
Grand Exalted Ruler
2021-2022

BIOGRAPHY OF

THAINE "KEITH" MILLS

GRAND EXALTED RULER

2021-2022

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the U.S.A.

Keith Mills was born on October 17, 1968 in Twin Falls, Idaho, to Justin and Ruth Mills, the youngest of five children. Keith has three brothers, Randy, Butch, the late Devon, and his sister Cheryl. Keith grew up on the family farm outside Hollister, Idaho. The rural elementary school had about 50 students enrolled through sixth grade. High school was spent in the neighboring town of Filer where Keith participated in almost every sport; football, basketball, track and rodeo. In 1987, he graduated from Filer High School. Congressman Stallings was instrumental in Keith receiving an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point for academics and football. Unfortunately, an injury meant Keith returned home in 1989 where he attended the College of Southern Idaho and met Amy Rutherford, his best friend and true love. They both received their Associates Degree. They were married in 1990 and Keith transferred to the University of Idaho where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering.

For over 31 years Amy has encouraged and supported his dreams. Keith and Amy have two children; Cassie has 2 boys, Clark and Karson, and is attending nursing school. Their son Justin, who is a senior at Boise State University and will be graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Business.

Growing up on a farm, Keith developed a strong work ethic and as he grew older, the value of a hard day's work. His family farmed 350 acres and operated a Custom Farming business. They also raised prize winning Duroc hogs for breeding which Keith showed in 4-H and Future Farmers of America, as well as sold breeding stock across the United States.

After college his career began at Applied Materials where he worked for more than 10 years in the Semiconductor Industry with extensive travel in the United States, Asia and Europe.

Keith returned to Twin Falls to be with family where he owned and operated several construction and trucking companies. Keith currently works as the Director for a County Highway District.

In 1990, Keith was proposed for membership by his father and initiated as a Member of the Twin Falls, Idaho Elks Lodge No. 1183. He continued his membership there all through college. Upon graduation, they moved to Nampa, just down the street from his brother Devon. With Devon already an Elks Member, Keith transferred his membership to Caldwell Lodge No. 1448 where he is still involved today.

Keith began as Tiler for the Twin Falls Elks Lodge for two years before leaving for college, then upon his transfer to Caldwell in 1994, was appointed Inner Guard and installed in 1995 and progressed through every officer chair, serving as Exalted Ruler 2001-2002. He then served the next five years on the Board of Trustees, with the last as Chairman. Keith was a member of five Idaho State Champion Ritual teams, each competing at Grand Lodge. He is excellent at performing the ritual and is a six-time State All American. Keith has been recognized for his outstanding dedication to Caldwell Lodge multiple times. In 2008, he was voted Caldwell's "Elk of the Year," as well as Idaho State's "Elk of the Year." Keith has the distinguished honor of being the first ever to be elected to Honorary Life Membership to Caldwell Lodge No. 1448.

Keith was elected and served three years as Idaho Vice President South, subsequently being elected and serving as Idaho State President in 2006-2007. The next six years were on the Idaho state major project, the Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Hospital Board with the last two years as Chairman. In 2016, he was inducted in the "Idaho Elks Hall of Honor." He continues to serve the Idaho State Association and is on the Advisory Committee with the Past State Presidents.

Keith's service to the Grand Lodge has included two terms as District Deputy for Idaho South District and then served six years as a Special Representative for various Lodges in Idaho. During this time, Keith also served as Idaho State Hoop Shoot Chairman for 18 years and Northwest Regional Director from 2011 to 2016. The region included Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Alaska. Keith and Amy truly enjoyed being with the children, watching them grow and getting to know the families. He was appointed Senior Special Representative for Idaho and Oregon in 2019 and continues to serve in both positions.

At the 2016 Grand Lodge, Keith was elected to a four-year term on the Board of Grand Trustees, subsequently serving as Building Applications-West Member, Approving Member, Secretary, and most recently as Chairman. In 2020, he was appointed Oregon Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

The passion Keith has for our Fraternal Order is shown by his enthusiasm, commitment and devotion.



Bob Colie
GEA President

Welcome to 2022 and a very happy and prosperous New Year to you and your families! Beth and I hope your holiday season has been spiritually rewarding, productive and safe! We have a very busy year ahead and I know Georgia Elks and Auxiliaries are up to the tasks.

First I must mention what we've accomplished in the first three quarters of our Elk year. We are net positive in membership for the first time since the end of 2019-2020! That is HUGE and YOU DID THAT.

Our Association is off to a very good start in planning for the Atlanta Grand Lodge Convention scheduled for July 2022. Our Local Support Committee Chairman PSP Tim Whalen and his staff have us heading on the path to success. Additionally, Charitable contributions to our communities are up and most Lodges are doing well in obtaining ENF Grants.

Now we look to the promise of 2022 and what our focuses are. First and always we MUST finish strong on membership. We have 3 months left and must do our very best to bring in and initiate candidates and reduce our delinquencies and unpaid members. We have a chance to sit up front at the Atlanta Convention so LET's DO IT and Meet the Challenge!!

As mentioned, we have a good start in planning for the Atlanta Convention. Our next task is signing up volunteers and assigning them to teams. We need you all to step up and fill out the volunteer form you'll find available on the GAELKS.org website. Exalted Rulers I expect you to be pushing volunteer signup at every Lodge meeting starting in January. Remember, Elks that volunteer for at least one 4 to 6 hour shift won't have to pay the convention registration fee.

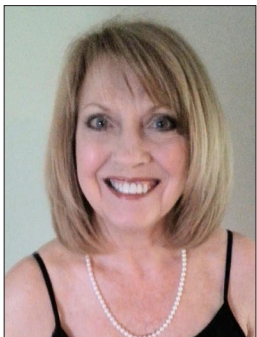
We have a full calendar for the first seven months in 2022 so let's get as many Elks as we can to do the following:

- First we have our Spring meeting hosted by Savannah Lodge #183 on February 24-27. It should be a fun conference as we always have a great time in Savannah! Our Grand Exalted Ruler T. Keith Mills and his wife Amy will attend. Also, we'll have President-Elects from Mississippi, Alabama and Florida in attendance along with their lovely wives. Please get your registrations in early (forms available on GAELKS.org).
- Next up is our District Deputy and Georgia Elks Leadership Academy in Macon on April 8-9. Chairperson Jane Santee is putting together another informative and fun event that you'll really enjoy.
- In June (9-12) we'll be meeting at Jekyll Island for the Georgia Elks Association State Convention. We're very much looking forward to installing Nita Knighton as our next President!
- The Atlanta Grand Lodge Convention is July 3-6 with the opening ceremony on Sunday July 3rd. With your help we're going to host a Great convention and make GEORGIA PROUD!

I could mention many more things (like Hoop Shoot, Soccer, Scholarships, ENF contributions, etc) but I'd like our primary focus to be on the activities discussed above.

Thanks for all you do as Elks,

Robert (Bob) Colie
President, Georgia Elks Association



Sarah Hendricks
Auxiliary President

As 2021 came to a close we had a lot to be thankful for as we shared Thanksgiving with our families and friends. We were also blessed to return to the Aidmore campus to celebrate the birth of our savior. Thanks to my Aidmore committee and all of the Georgia Elks Auxiliary members that made Christmas at Aidmore a huge success. Through my visits to the auxiliaries and social media I have witnessed everyone opening their hearts to make the Christmas season better for our veterans and the children in their communities that are less fortunate.

The Savannah Elks lodge and Auxiliary are working hard in preparation to host the Spring Meeting of the Georgia Elks Association, February 25th and 26th, 2022. It is a beautiful time of the year to enjoy Savannah. If you haven't already registered, I would encourage you to do so. It's going to be a great time.

Let's make 2022 a year of achievements for the auxiliaries. We can work together with our lodges to grow membership, help our communities and support our youth through local programs and Aidmore.

With Appreciation,

Sarah Hendricks
Auxiliary President





Mike Smith
PGER, PNP

Hello Georgia Elks Association and HAPPY NEW YEAR! It is an exciting year with the National Convention being held in Atlanta in July. I hope all of you are making plans to attend and hopefully volunteer to help welcome Elks from across our nation. We have a very capable Local Support Committee that has been planning the event for many months.

To help you get in the spirit come meet our Grand Exalted Ruler, T. Keith Mills, and our Order's First Lady, Amy at the Georgia Convention in Savannah. They are great people and tremendous ambassadors representing our organization. Savannah is a very interesting city as well as a fun destination. Come socialize and learn more about what is happening in your state association and national issues. Come join us and spread our southern hospitality to our guests.

"Georgia Strong"—What a resilient response to the negative impact the virus had on our membership but the GEA answered with a very successful recovery. Congratulations to all who made a contribution. Many of the lodges are experiencing cost savings and a more efficient way to manage the delinquent members with the aid of the new Grand Lodge Billing System. If your lodge is not participating you are wasting time and money. The system is FREE to all lodges.

Our District Deputies are working very hard to assist in getting all lodges on the Financial Reporting System (FRS). For those lodges not participating they are receiving fines and then Grand Lodge sanctions. The membership adopted this on the Grand Lodge floor by voting at the St. Louis Convention. This is not an option and its purpose is to assist in the financial well-being of all lodges. It provides valuable information to the lodge and to the District Deputies to do their job properly.

Georgia Elks Association President Bob Colie and his wife, Beth are exemplifying leadership. They are very active and conscientious in their extensive travels throughout the state. Please make sure you extend your gratitude to them for their dedication and friendship.

Sandra and I look forward to seeing you in Savannah and Atlanta and renew our friendship with everyone. We wish all of you and your families a tremendous year and life. Remember to Be Proud, Loud and Visible while promoting the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks!!!

God's Blessings to all of you and your families!

Michael F. Smith, PGER/PNP
GEA State Sponsor



Bruce Hayden, PSP
Special Deputy

ELKDOM is alive and well in the great state of Georgia! We have a lot of activities taking place right now that are being worked on. We have an interest for a new Lodge in Macon, Georgia and we are in the early stages of moving forward on that development. Also, don't forget the planning that is taking place for Georgia to host Grand Lodge in July of this year. We need all hands on deck for that. While we are discussing Grand Lodge we are pleased that in February at our Spring Quarterly we will have our Grand Exalted Ruler T. Keith Mills joining us and being a part of our meetings.

Please make sure you are focusing on MEMBERSHIP, we want to sit up front at the Grand Lodge Convention and the only way to get there is to grow. Did I mention Membership yet? We need help on all fronts with ENF Donations as well, keep them coming in. The other program every Lodge should be wrapping up is the All American Lodge Contest, let's get 100% participation this year. Get with your District Deputies to assist with this.

As we approach our year end of Lodge business it is getting time for Officer elections, if you want to help your Lodge, step up and jump in a chair, it is the best service you will ever give to your Lodge and it is also the most rewarding part of being an Elk. Lean on your Lodge Advisors and PER's for guidance through the process of filling chairs. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Savannah in February.

My final note is a huge THANK YOU to all of you for all of the visits, calls, cards and prayers when my mother passed away. It goes to show we are one big family and we do CARE about each other.

Highlights from the Fall Meeting in Toccoa



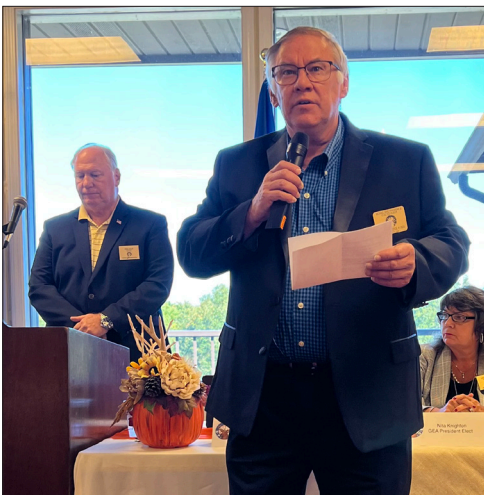
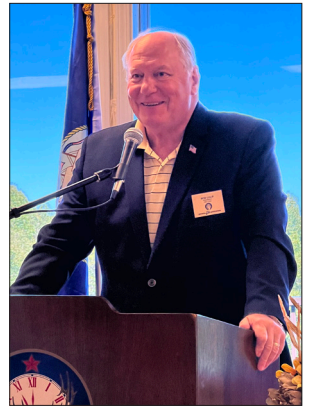
**GEA President and First Lady
Bob & Beth Colie**

On October 22 & 23, 2021, the Georgia Elks held their Fall Meeting at the beautiful Toccoa Lodge in the mountains of north Georgia. It was a gorgeous weekend and the Toccoa members did an outstanding job hosting the meeting. Thank you to all of the Elks and Auxiliary members that volunteered to work and make us all feel welcome.

On Friday, after several meetings, the lodge served a BBQ dinner with music and dancing. On Saturday morning, Elks and Auxiliary members got down to business with various meeting groups and in early afternoon President Bob Colie presided over the Business Meeting. Saturday night was the banquet with our State Sponsor, Mike Smith, speaking and Aidmore awards being presented by Abe Wilkinson, Stanley Santee and Auxiliary President, Sarah Hendricks. Marilyn Roland did an excellent job giving the 11th Hour Toast. Again, there was music and dancing to finish off a great weekend.



Highlights from the GEA Fall Meeting



ER Mike Skrzyzkowiak welcomes everyone to the Toccoa Lodge

PGER Mike Smith presented Lynda Lewis with the Ga Elks News 5 Star Award

Marilyn Roland from the Calhoun Lodge gets ready to give the Eleventh Hour Toast

Highlights from the GEA Fall Meeting



ER Mike Skrzypkowiak presented Cyndi Russell from Toccoa Lodge with the Community Activities Project Award
PAGE 9

GEA Fall Meeting Aidmore Awards



Far left, Abe Wilkinson & far right, Stanley Santee, PSP, presented Auxiliary President Sarah Hendricks and Fausto Tenen from **Savannah Lodge & Auxiliary #183** with South District Highest Overall Donations and South District Highest Per Capita Donations



L to R: Abe Wilkinson, Sarah Hendricks, Auxiliary President and Stanley Santee, PSP accepted the NW District Highest Per Capita Donations on behalf of **LaGrange Lodge & Auxiliary #1084**



Far left, Abe Wilkinson and far right, Stanley Santee, PSP presented Sarah Hendricks, Auxiliary President with **Savannah Lodge & Auxiliary #183** with South District Highest Overall Donations



Far left, Abe Wilkinson and far right, Sarah Hendricks, Aux. President & Stanley Santee, PSP presented Mickie Emmett, PSP Aux. with **Gainesville Lodge & Auxiliary #1126** with Highest NE District Per Capita Donations



L to R: Junior Roberson accepts the NW District Highest Overall Donations (**Dalton Lodge & Auxiliary #1267**) from Abe Wilkinson, Sarah Hendricks, Auxiliary President and Stanley Santee, PSP



Left, Mary Zachary accepts **Lake Oconee Lodge & Aux. #2849** Statewide Highest Overall Donations from Sarah Hendricks, Aux. Pres.



Far Left Abe Wilkinson and far right Stanley Santee, PSP presented Bill Becker & Sarah Hendricks, Aux. President with **Savannah Lodge & Auxiliary #183** with the Highest Per Capita Donations Award



L to R: Mary Zachary accepted the NE Highest Overall Donations for **Lake Oconee Lodge & Auxiliary #2849** from Sarah Hendricks, Aux. Pres., Abe Wilkinson & Stanley Santee, PSP



**Message from
Aidmore CEO
Abe Wilkinson**

NEWS FROM AIDMORE

ALL WE ASK IS THIS

Life is full of surprises. Some are good...some not so much. Some, like COVID, are almost unbearable. No matter the surprise, the Bible teaches us it is God who is in control. When things seem out of control to us, Mark 11:24 reminds us "whatever we ask for in prayer, believe you will receive it and it will be yours."

My "ask" of each of you, is to keep Aidmore in your prayers. We have so many positive things happening which have the potential to favorably impact our funding. We recently requested a review of our most challenging youth. 15 of them were approved for funding at a higher level of placement, resulting in an additional \$200,000 annually. Elks Aidmore has long advocated for the recognition of a true Therapeutic Foster Care model in Georgia. The state of Georgia recently submitted a revised state plan to the federal Center for Medicaid Services and received approval for such a program in Georgia. Our agency could see an additional \$500,000 in funding from this change. The state legislature will soon be reviewing the 2023 budget, in which we are advocating for an increase of 7.6% in daily per diems for all of the children served by Child Caring Institutions or Child Placing Agencies. The result would be an additional \$500,000 in annual revenues.

An increase in revenues means more financial stability. More financial stability means uninterrupted delivery of services. Uninterrupted services

mean better outcomes. Here are two recent examples:

- Jenna T. won 1st place in the Amped Kids Talent Showcase held at Lake Lanier on Saturday, November 13th. Jenna competed against 7 other youth. In addition to winning first place, Jenna will have the opportunity to travel to Nashville and record 4 songs. She was also awarded a \$500 scholarship and other prizes.
- Diamond L. was selected to be on the 2021 Homecoming Court. Diamond is a junior at Heritage High School in Conyers. She has a 3.4 GPA and was Student of the Month in November. She plans to attend college to become a nurse and has been awarded a scholarship to Paine College to pursue that dream.

At our recent GEA fall meeting in Toccoa, I predicted the Georgia Bulldogs would be the national champions in college football. By the time you read this article, you will know if that prediction became a reality. They started the season as a "no-name defense". A walk-on quarterback overcame intense criticisms and became the starting quarterback. They fought their way to the top as a team. They shared an immense respect and love for one another. They embraced a "next man up" mentality. They believed they were the best but were always looking for ways to get better. Whether they emerged victorious in the championship game or not, they at least had a chance to play for the title.

Isn't that what we all desire at points in our lives? To start, to fight, to overcome, to embrace, to believe, to just have a chance. I have a sign in my office at home, a gift from one of our daughters. In large print it reads "Pray Big". So, my "ask" of you, again, is to pray for Aidmore. If you are already praying, pray BIGGER! Our children and youth deserve a chance to achieve their goals and realize their dreams of a brighter future.

RECOGNITION OF BOBBY CARTER, PSP

Elks Aidmore CEO Abe Wilkinson presented Georgia Elks Association Past State President Bob Carter with a clock recognizing his 13 years of dedication, service and leadership as Treasurer of the Elks Aidmore Board of Trustees (2008-2021).

THE TIME IS HERE...YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED

Significant efforts are being made by private non-profit agencies to have an across-the-board 7.6% increase for all Child Placing Agencies and Child Caring Institutions included in the FY23 Georgia budget. An increase would mean additional funding of nearly \$500,000 for the Elks Aidmore Residential Treatment services and Therapeutic Foster Care programs. We have developed "talking points" and will make those available to each of you to use in supporting this increase with your state representatives and senators.

Watch for upcoming e-mails outlining our advocacy efforts. We will need your help, and your efforts in getting others to write letters of support as well. PLEASE HELP! Our collective voices WILL make a difference in the lives of Georgia's children and families. If you need more information on how to help, or who to contact, please send an email to CEO Abe Wilkinson at abe@elksaidmore.net.



Conyers

CHRISTMAS WISHES COME TRUE AT AIDMORE

From the staff and clients of Elks Aidmore, a heart-felt thanks to our many individual, group and corporate sponsors for their support in making Christmas 2021 extra special. Due to the generosity of so many, Elks Aidmore provided Christmas gifts to over 150 children and youth. One more example of how we all work together to make dreams and wishes come true.

From Jackie Jordan, Director of Community Service, North Georgia

The Conyers office was thankful for the community support received to be able to put bright smiles on seventy (70) children's faces Christmas morning!

We are extremely grateful to have the loyalty of several businesses in the community, who have supported our effort every year: Coca-Cola, Arbor Pharmaceutical, Park Madison Realty, Smyrna Word of Life Church, and

Gravette Electrical Services.

In addition to the tremendous support provided to our Dalton Office, the Calhoun Elkettes heard about the additional need of children in the Conyers area, reached out and adopted them as well. Our hearts are grateful as God continues to send his Angels who are blessed to be blessings!



The New Elks Aidmore, Inc. Executive Board L-R: Charlie Hendricks, PSP, First Vice President, Stanley Santee, PSP, President, Mickie Emmett, PSP Aux., Secretary, Jane Santee, Financial Officer, Tim Whalen, PSP, Legal Advisor and John Helgesen, PSP, Second Vice President



L-R: Bobby Carter, PSP and Abe Wilkinson



Valdosta

NEWS FROM AIDMORE

From Cyrus Hansberry, Director of Community Services, South Georgia

The Elks Lodge #728 in Valdosta, GA hosted a wonderful Christmas drive-thru event for the Elks Aidmore, Inc foster parents and children on Saturday, December 18, 2021. The Elks lodge provided each foster parent with a gift basket to include a ham and gift card. In addition, each child was given a gift based on their age. The Valdosta staff participated and reported having a great time at the event.

The Elks Lodge #183 in Savannah, GA hosted an amazing, in-person, annual Christmas party for all military children and families in the Savannah area. The party took place on Sunday, Dec. 19,

2021 at the Lodge. They served a hotdog lunch with all the trimmings to everyone, sang Christmas carols and read "T'was the Night Before Christmas" to all of the children before handing out the gifts. It was a wonderful Christmas event.



Savannah



Dalton

From Bethany Jackson, Recruiter for Therapeutic Foster Care, Dalton

The Dalton office was very fortunate to have the help of three Elks Lodges to pull off Christmas for our kids this year. The Calhoun Elkettes sponsored all of the kids for Christmas that are placed in our Gordon County homes. They also provided both of our foster homes in Gordon County with a huge laundry basket full of food and a Kroger gift card. Our remaining kids were sponsored by members of the Dalton Elks Lodge. The Cartersville Elks Lodge hosted their Breakfast with Santa in which all of the Dalton office kids and families were served breakfast, got to see Santa and get a gift from him, drink hot chocolate and decorate cookies.

From Patti McGrew, Director of Residential Services

On Saturday, December 11th and Sunday, January 12, two fun and festive events sponsored by the Elks Aidmore Auxiliaries and various Elks Lodges throughout the state were held on the campus of Elks Aidmore, Inc. in Conyers. Saturday's event included a Christmas tree decorating party and lunch for the residents. Sunday's activity was the Annual Christmas party that included residents, staff, Elks, Auxiliary members, food, fun, and fellowship. Warm greetings and acknowledgements were tendered by Mr. Abe Wilkinson, CEO and Dr. Vickey Hale, COO. The birthdays of two of the Auxiliary members, Ms. Pam Stewart and Ms. Pat Harper were also recognized and celebrated at the party. The residents presented a Christmas program that consisted of a Christmas Acrostic, a poem, "The Real Meaning of Christmas", and a solo, "Away in a Manager" by resident, Jenna Thomas. Elks Aidmore Auxiliaries sponsored the 18 residents and presented gifts from the resident's wish list to each resident. Mr. and Mrs. Clause were even on hand to take pictures, give gifts, and add to the holiday cheer! A jolly time was had by all!

GEA President Bob & First Lady Beth Colie posed with Mr. & Mrs. Santa (aka Jim and Vickie Warren)

Abe Wilkinson recognized Pam Stewart, PSP Aux., far left, and Pat Harper, PSP Aux. Happy Birthday to both!

Auxiliary State President Sarah Hendricks and Charlie Hendricks, PSP



Below, some of the smiling faces of Aidmore



AIDMORE HONORS & MEMORIAL GIFTS

The staff and youth of Georgia Elks Aidmore, Inc. gratefully acknowledge the financial support of every donor. The following lists those whose recent gifts honor both living and deceased friends. For convenient reference, the list is printed in alphabetical order. We apologize should any names be omitted and if you call such errors to our attention, we will gladly make an appropriate correction in the future. Donations are from September 1, 2021 through January 1, 2022.

HONORS

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Gene and Pat Craven
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Mike and Linda Bailey
MARGIE JONES
Mike and Linda Bailey
GENE CRAVEN
Mike and Linda Bailey
UNION CITY LODGE AUXILIARY #1617
Deborah Richmond
SAVANNAH ELKS AUXILIARY
Bob Johnson

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Phoenix Homemaker's Club
Charlie and Sarah Hendricks
Wayne and Charlotte Johnson
Mike and Linda Bailey
RONNIE STURDIVANT
Wayne and Charlotte Johnson

BRICK DONORS

We wish to recognize the following donors to the Elks Aidmore Brick Plaza. The Patrons have purchased bricks in their own names. Honor bricks can be purchased in recognition of another person and Memorial bricks are purchased in the name of deceased relatives and friends. We apologize should any names be omitted and if you will call such errors to our attention, we will gladly make an appropriate correction in the future. Donations are from September 1, 2021 through January 1, 2022 .

IN HONOR

SUE SNEED
Pam Stewart

IN MEMORY

GENE CRONAN
Eatonton Elkettes
DIANE STEVENS
Eatonton Elkettes
KAYLA BARTHOLOMEW
Richard and Ann Weidt

EIGHT FOR AIDMORE

Toccoa Elks Auxiliary 1820
Bill and Betty Parrott
Heidi Ingwell
Brian Russell
Cyndi Russell
Union City Elks Auxiliary
Pat Harper
Dan Tatum

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 24-26, 2022

Georgia Elks Association
Spring Meeting, Savannah GA

March 5, 2022

Elks Aidmore Board of Trustees,
10am Conference Call

April 29, 2022

Elks Aidmore *Golf Fore Kids*
Hard Labor Creek State Park
Rutledge GA

April 30, 2022

Aidmore Exec. Committee, 9am
Aidmore Board of Trustees, 10am
Aidmore Open House, 1pm

June 9-11, 2022

Georgia Elks Association
Annual Convention
Jekyll Island GA

July 3-6, 2022

Elks National Convention
Atlanta GA

Georgia Elks Aidmore Auxiliaries



Ladies Horseshoes at the Toccoa Fall Meeting **Back Row L-R:** Almeta Cash, Sue Sneed, PSP Aux., Judy Arden, Deborah Johnson, Heather Hickey, PSP Aux., and Dodie Doss **Front Row L-R:** Cathy Carpenter, Pam Stewart, PSP Aux., Mickie Emmett, PSP Aux., Nancy Strickland, PSP Aux., Judy Norrell, Charlene Westbery, PSP Aux. and State President Sarah Hendricks



Winners of the Horseshoe Tournament in Toccoa L-R: 1st Place Mickie Emmett, PSP Aux., and Pam Stewart, PSP Aux., 2nd Place Judy Norrell and Cathy Carpenter



Winner of the John Hardy bracelet from Valdosta, on the left is winner Angela Millsaps and on the right is JoAnn Benet who sold the winning ticket



The ladies said farewell to **Pat Harper, PSP Aux., long time auxiliary member**, who is moving from the area to be with her daughter. Pat has been an active supporter of Elks Aidmore at the local and state levels for well over 60 years. We will miss her leadership and support. We ask God's Blessings for Pat as she starts this new journey in her life.



Albany Lodge and the Auxiliary presented approximately \$300 worth of school supplies to Abe Wilkinson at the Fall Conference in Toccoa for Aidmore. Thank you to everyone that donated to help the students. L-R: Bob & April Reardon, Harriet Thompson, PSP Aux., Gary & Marilyn Fowler, Margie & Stan Jones, PSP and Abe Wilkinson



Brunswick Auxiliary shared their Christmas meeting with Sarah Hendricks, State Auxiliary President and South Vice President Judy Arden. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Pictured is Sarah with Melissa Malone, President of the Brunswick Auxiliary.



Gainsville Auxiliary delivered Christmas cards to the retirement home in Gainesville. The members of the Auxiliary wrote a message in each card to show they are being remembered. It is a treat for all the members at the home to have a card of their own with a message from auxiliary members. The cards were delivered and they talked to a lot of the members living there. They do not have visitors very often. Pictured L-R: Sue Sneed, PSP Aux., Mickie Emmett, PSP Aux., ER Calvin Sneed, and Glenda Pierce



Langan and her friend Mary Jo Thompson for bringing the dogs and to Cindy Estle, McCall Jones, Gail Bishop and Susan Powers for delivering the gifts.



Lake Oconee Auxiliary (LOLA) delivered gift bags to the Eatonton Health and Rehabilitation Center in December and brought along the dogs which the residents always love to see. Thank you to Sandy



Lake Oconee Auxiliary welcomed State Auxiliary President Sarah Hendricks (front row far left) to their December meeting. Sarah, we enjoyed having you visit with us!



Nineteen years ago a **Savannah Auxiliary** member Iona Denmark hosted an event in remembrance of 9-11. The Auxiliary continues this tradition and they remembered and honored the people that serve and protect. Great job Savannah ladies.



Savannah Auxiliary members delivered items to the Living Vine, a christian maternity home. The auxiliary donated \$235 for their Thanksgiving and 3 boxes of baby clothes. L-R: Mallory Atkinson (works at Living Vine), members Connie Smart, Barbara Floyd, Agnes Brantly, Dee Christy & Tammy Simmons

Georgia Elks Aidmore Auxiliaries



Savannah Auxiliary members held a “Roaring Twenties” Dance. Pictured above are this years Auxiliary officers L-R: Vivian Palefsky, Jerry Nettles, Betty Lee, Dorothy Sili, Connie Smart, Carol Haymore, Dee Christy and Almeta Cash



More fun at the **Savannah Auxiliary** “Roaring Twenties” dance. Pictured above on the left are L-R: Sharon Lawson, Nelson Lawson, Jackie Curran, Tom Curran, State Auxiliary President Sarah Hendricks, Charlie Hendricks, PSP, Jessie Shirah and Steve Shirah. Pictured above on the right L-R: Cherie Becker (State Auxiliary Chaplain), State Auxiliary President Sarah Hendricks and Vivian Palefsky (Savannah Auxiliary President).



Toccoa Auxiliary-The Stephens County High School Anchor Club painted stones for the Elks Ladies Auxiliary to present to the Veterans in the Clary Center, Wilkinson Center & Pruitt Healthcare. The stones were given as a memento to honor the Vets and their service. Thank you to the Anchor Club and our Veteran committee Marcia McClain & Vicky Dickersoon

Spring Meeting Schedules

GEA Spring Meeting
Savannah Elks Lodge #183
183 Wilshire Blvd.
Savannah, Georgia 31419
February 24-27, 2022

Thursday - February 24

Tee time TBD - 2:00 Golf Tournament (Scramble)
 Hunter Army Airfield (attendance optional)
 Flyer & registration form to be posted on the
 GEA Website and on the GEA Facebook Page.
 TBD Tour Activity with GER T. Keith & Amy Mills
 6:30 Past State Presidents Dinner
 Vics on the River, 26 E. Bay Street, Savannah, GA

NOTES:

1. Business Casual for men is slacks, a collared shirt and jacket, no tie or jeans. Dress Casual for men is slacks or jeans, a collared shirt and jacket (optional). Casual means short pants and polo shirts. Ladies dress accordingly for each category.

2. Elks meetings will be at the Savannah Lodge.

Friday - February 25

9:00 Savannah City tour & lunch with GER, MS, AL & FL President Designates (Invitation Only)
 10:00 - 4:00 Registration Desk Open
 3:00 - 4:00 Lodge Secretary/Treasurer Meeting (Casual)
 3:00 - 5:00 Horseshoes or Cornhole (Casual)
 4:00 - 5:00 Past State Presidents Meeting (Casual)
 4:00 - 5:00 ER/Leading Knight Meeting (Casual)
 5:00 - 5:30 GEA Pres. Mtg. - 5 Group Chairs (Casual)
 6:00 - 7:00 Meet/Greet for President Elect Candidates
 7:00-11:00 Seafood Fry Dinner & Dance at the Lodge
 (Dress Casual)

Saturday - February 26

8:00 - 2:00 Registration Desk Open
 8:00 - 9:30 1st Committee Session (Dress Casual)
 Times published separately
 9:30-11:00 2nd Committee Session (Dress Casual)
 Times published separately
 11:00-12:00 GEA Board of Directors Meeting (Casual)
 11:30-12:30 PER Meeting/Luncheon
 11:30- 1:00 Lunch at the Lodge
 12:15- 1:30 Credentials Desk Open
 1:00 - 4:00 GEA Business Session (Dress Casual)
 (Good Fortune Shoot Off to follow
 the Business Meeting)
 4:00 - 6:30 Free Time
 6:30 - 7:00 Cocktails
 7:00-11:00 Banquet & Dance (Business Casual)
 11 O'Clock Toast

Sunday, February 27

Depart on your personal schedule



Savannah Auxiliary delivered veterans Christmas presents to the Riverview Nursing Home. Pictured L-R: Carol Haymore, Frances Overstreet, Janet Lane, Dee Christy (auxiliary members) and Joan Williams, Activity Director for the nursing home. Below Savannah Auxiliary delivering more presents to the Nursing Home.



GEORGIA ELKS AIDMORE AUXILIARY Spring Meeting Savannah, Georgia February 25-26, 2022

Friday, February 25, 2022

10:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration Desk Open
11:00 am	Past State Presidents Luncheon Bonefish Grill, 5500 Abercorn Street
1:30 pm	Executive Board Meeting, Savannah Lodge, Lodge Room
2:00 pm	Auxiliary Past Presidents Meeting Savannah Lodge, Lodge Room
2:30 pm	Horseshoes Savannah Lodge, Pool House
6:00 - 7:00 pm	Cocktails
7:00-11:00 pm	Dinner and Dance

Saturday, February 26, 2022

8:00 am – 8:45 am	Credentials Desk Open, Savannah Lodge, Savannah Rm.
9:00 am – 11:30 am	General Business Meeting
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch at the Lodge
1:00 pm	Georgia Elks Association Aidmore Presentation Savannah Lodge, Ballroom
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Cocktails
7:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Banquet and Dance

Let's Play Soccer

On Sunday, November 21, 2021, the District Soccer Shoot, immediately followed by the State Soccer Shoot, took place at Aidmore in Conyers, Georgia. It was a beautiful sunny day with a great group of kids and their parents participating in the competitions. Thank you to State Chairman, Junior Roberson, NE Chair Bob Pluta and NW Chair Brian Russell and all of their helpers for making this such a fun day for everyone. The winners of the State Competition that will be traveling to Florida for the Regional competition in January are listed below and Congratulations and Good Luck at Regionals to each of them! Some of the group headed to Florida are pictured on the cover of this issue of the Ga Elks News.

GIRLS

U8 - Josie Allen
U10 - Rosa Nava
U12 - Alexis Henderson
U14 - Jayden Hufstetler
U16 - Lauren Simmons

BOYS

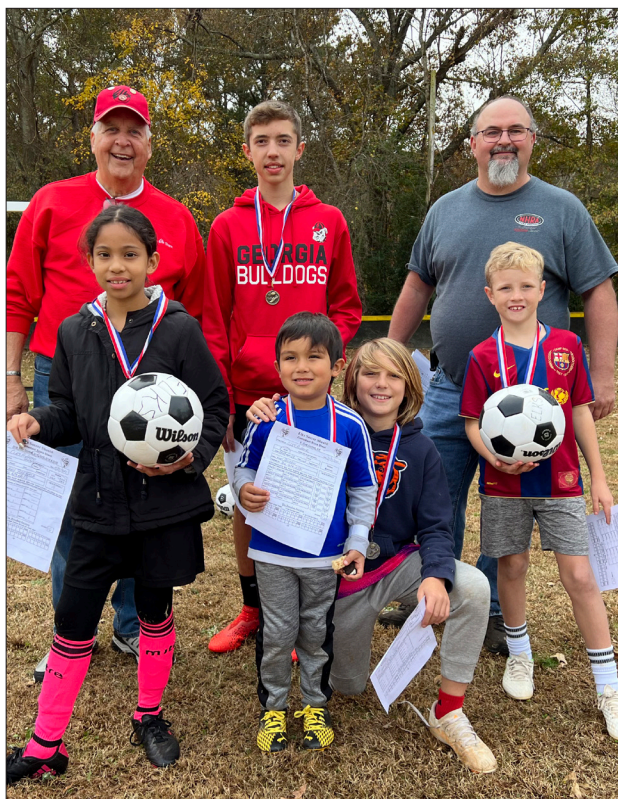
U8 - Ismael Mendiola
U10 - Gerordo Padilla
U12 - Matthew Oliver
U14 - Larson Detienne
U16 - Cohen Anderson



NE Chairman Bob Pluta with the kids competing from the NE at the District and State Shoots



Above, NW Chairman Brian Russell with his kids competing in the District & State Shoots
Below with State Chairman, Junior Roberson are the winners of the State Soccer Shoot going on to the Regionals in Florida



NE Chair Bob Pluta (back far left) and NW Chair Brian Russell (far right) pose with the winners of the District Soccer Shoot



Georgia Elks Family Fun Day in Marietta

On September 25, 2021, the Elks of Georgia got together in Marietta for a Family Fun Day to help recruit members for the Marietta Lodge #1657. The event took place in a park in Marietta with the visitors to the park learning a lot about what Elks do, with various booths set up to include drug awareness, scholarships, veterans, soccer and hoop shoots. Soccer goals were set up along with a basketball goal and the kids had a great time shooting baskets and aiming for soccer shoot targets. Hotdogs were grilled and served up to all that wished a tasty lunch. Adrianna Watkins from the Marietta Lodge made balloon animals for the kids and it was an all around fun day for everyone. Thank you to the 30 Elks that attended from Cartersville, Covington, Dalton, Lake Oconee, Marietta, Toccoa and the Athens area.





Vance Rhodes, PSP
Hoop Shoot
Chairman

Committee Reports

Hoop Shoot

This year marks **50 YEARS** of our Elks Hoop Shoot Program and a big celebration is planned in Chicago. I can't even imagine the number of children our Lodges, our State Association and our National finals program have supported through this program. Our youth are our future and the Elks are doing everything that we can with our programs to help them. At the National Finals not only will we be celebrating the accomplishments of our national winners, Bill Cook, past Regional Director, will be posthumously honored for his many years of dedicated service to this program.

While I can't report the results of any competitions at this time as most are taking place in January, I will give my full report at the Spring Meeting. I want to thank all of our Volunteers throughout the state for giving of their time and efforts to making 2021-2022 a successful year.

Please check the GA Elks website for details and updates on our program.

Chuck Myers, NE District Director: cmyers4864@yahoo.com

Randy Keener, NW District Director: Randy.Keener@mktalliance.com

Robert Reardon, S District Director: bob31791@yahoo.com

National Hoop Shoot, April 30, 2022, Chicago.

Vance Rhodes, State Hoop Shoot Director: vwrhodes1@gmail.com, 770-833-5048 mobile



Fraternally
Vance



Cyndi Russell
864-247-5768
Cyndilay@yahoo.com
Facebook-
Cyndi Lay-Russell

Drug Awareness

The Elks have the largest Drug Awareness program in the United States. We are very proud of our dedicated army of volunteers who freely give their time and talents to this most noble cause. The Elks are committed to eliminating the use and abuse of illegal drugs by all members of society and believe that in order to ensure a bright future for our country, it is essential that our children be raised in a drug-free environment. The Elks Drug Awareness Video contest's theme for 2021-2022 is "The Best Me Is Drug Free". The contest is open to two age groups: Pre High School and High School. Info and forms are on the forms & documents page on the website. The Elks Drug Awareness Poster Contest's theme "The Best Me Is Drug Free" is open to all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students and info and forms are also on the forms and documents page on the website. The Enrique S. Camarena Award is for a member of the law enforcement community who best exemplifies the qualities and principles for which Agent Camarena gave his life. Nominees should be involved in their communities in an effort to help that community become drug free. Nomination form and info are on the forms & documents page on the website. You can also find information there about the Red Ribbon Patch Program. The DEA Red Ribbon Patch Program is designed to provide Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts the opportunity to earn a patch from the Drug Enforcement Administration by performing antidrug activities in commemoration of Red Ribbon Week. Also go to forms and documents for the Drug Awareness Trailer Check List and the Drug Awareness Trailer Listings

Lodge Activities

Please take part in the many activities available for your lodge. All of the forms and info for the following activities can be found on the forms & activities page on the website. The Georgia Elks State Newsletter Contest, the All American Lodge Contest "A" 2021-2022 and the Lodge Activity Contest. Information on Mandatory activities are those required by statute and include Flag Day and Memorial Day can also be found there.



Scholarships

The Scholarship season is well underway, with 440 total applications. District judging is under way now, with state judging starting January 28 - February 14. National judging is March 2 - 14 with national finalists announced late March.

There is still time for any child or grandchild of an Elk to apply for the Legacy Scholarship, which closes on February 7.



Junior Roberson
Scholarship &
Soccer
Chairman

We are on the last leg of the soccer shoot for this year. Georgia will have a full slate of children for the regional shoot later this month, when we compete against Florida and South Carolina. The State winners are as follows:



GIRLS

U8 - Josie Allen
U10 - Rosa Nava
U12 - Alexis Henderson
U14 - Jayden Hufstetler
U16 - Lauren Simmons

BOYS

U8 - Ismael Mendiola
U10 - Gerardo Padilla
U12 - Matthew Oliver
U14 - Larson Detienne
U16 - Cohen Anderson

News From Lodges Around the State



Far Left, Albany Lodge #713 members Gary and Marilyn Fowler, delivered drug awareness bags to Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital Pediatrics Unit Nurse, Amanda Patterson, right, on October 8, 2021. The hospital will give out the bags to children as they are admitted. The bags were filled with educational material and fun learning activities designed to teach the kids the dangers of illegal drug use and abuse. **Center, Albany Lodge #713** collected socks during Georgia Mentor's "Socktober" event. L-R: Harriet Thompson, PSP Aux., Gary Fowler, Marilyn Fowler presented Veronica Hill, Ga Mentor Foster parent, with 278 pairs of socks for the area foster children at Christmas. **Far Right, Albany Lodge #713** used the Gratitude Grant to have a Children's Drive through Christmas Party on Sunday, December 12th. Counting the donations made to the Lee County Underprivileged program and this party, the lodge reached approximately 60 children with toys to help make their Christmas a little brighter.



Albany Lodge #713 - Gary Fowler, Drug Awareness Chair for Albany Lodge presented a Drug Awareness Program to the Young Marines Unit of Albany on September 12, 2021. The young marines were presented with information and a demonstration on the effects of various drugs on the body and mind using distortion goggles. Other Elk members assisting with the presentation were Bob & April Reardon, Lou Taylor, Marilyn Fowler and Auxiliary member Harriet Thompson, PSP Aux. The program is for boys & girls, ages 8 through high school graduation, focused on leadership, citizenship through community service and self-discipline.

Below, Atlanta-Northlake Lodge #78 set up a booth and participated in Tucker Days



Albany Lodge #713 participated in the Lee County Christmas Parade. Beautiful weather, a great day for lots of fun. Special thanks to everyone that volunteered. The Young Marines were there and were a BIG help. 1276 "Just Say NO" drug awareness bags were handed out with candy. Elks L-R: April Reardon, Bob Reardon, Wally Binns, Lawrence Finlayson, Charlie Watson, Harriet Thompson, PSP Aux., Margie Jones and Gary Fowler, and leaning down in front Marilyn Fowler

Below, Augusta Lodge #205 donated toys to the children of the community with their Toys for Tots Extravaganza. What a great day!





Brunswick Lodge #691 presented a \$750 check to the local Salvation Army. ER Brenda Sailors and Treasurer Patricia Barber are pictured presenting the check.



Calhoun Lodge #1883 held its annual soccer shoot on October 17, 2021 at River Park Soccer Complex in Calhoun.



Covington Lodge #1806 celebrated with the Veterans from Fort Mac. The Vets came and had lunch and played bingo with lodge members. They all went home with Christmas stockings filled with gifts and several went home with microwaves and air fryers. There were over 38 men and women. The Beacon Grant helped fund this event.

Below, Covington Lodge #1806 held its annual Halloween dance for the disabled.



Below, Covington Lodge #1806 participated in the "Fuzz Run" by bringing the drug awareness trailer and giving out drug awareness material. Elroy was also present to help out.





Directly Above, Cartersville Lodge #1969 hosted Breakfast with Santa on December 18th. They served breakfast, followed by cookie decorating and pictures with Santa who gave out special gifts for each child. Attending were foster children in Bartow County, SKO-RE participants and the Dalton Elks Therapeutic Foster Care families & children placed with them.

Above Top and Middle Row 2 left photos, Cartersville Lodge #1969 participated in the Cartersville Christmas Parade on December 2, 2021 and their float won 1st place in the Non Commercial Category! There was an estimated 5000-6000 people watching the parade. It was a fantastic event with a total of 130 floats in the parade. Members gave out 500 bags with Drug Awareness coloring books, crayons, pamphlets and candy. There was a lot of help getting the float decorated for parade day. Elroy was borrowed from the Atlanta-Northlake Lodge. Riding on the float were members of the Cartersville Lodge and their kids and grandkids. Wendy's granddaughter, Calleigh wore an elf costume and was the parade leader. Calleigh walked the entire route high fiving and saying hello to folks!

Below, Dalton Lodge #1267 participated in the Veterans Day Parade. State President Bob Colie was the Grand Marshall accompanied by First Lady Beth Colie. Over 200 bags of goodies to children were handed out along the parade route. The veterans were honored the next day with a luncheon and President Colie spoke to the attendees.





Dalton Lodge #1267 provided Christmas cheer for 100 local families. Pictured, people load boxes full of food and Christmas presents for a family at the Dalton Elks Lodge. From the left are volunteers Tyson Langford, Amber Henderson, co-chair of the Elks' Christmas program and Michelle Langham, co-chair of the Christmas program.



Above and below left, **Douglas Lodge #1286** held a Luau at the lodge and a great time was had by everyone that attended.

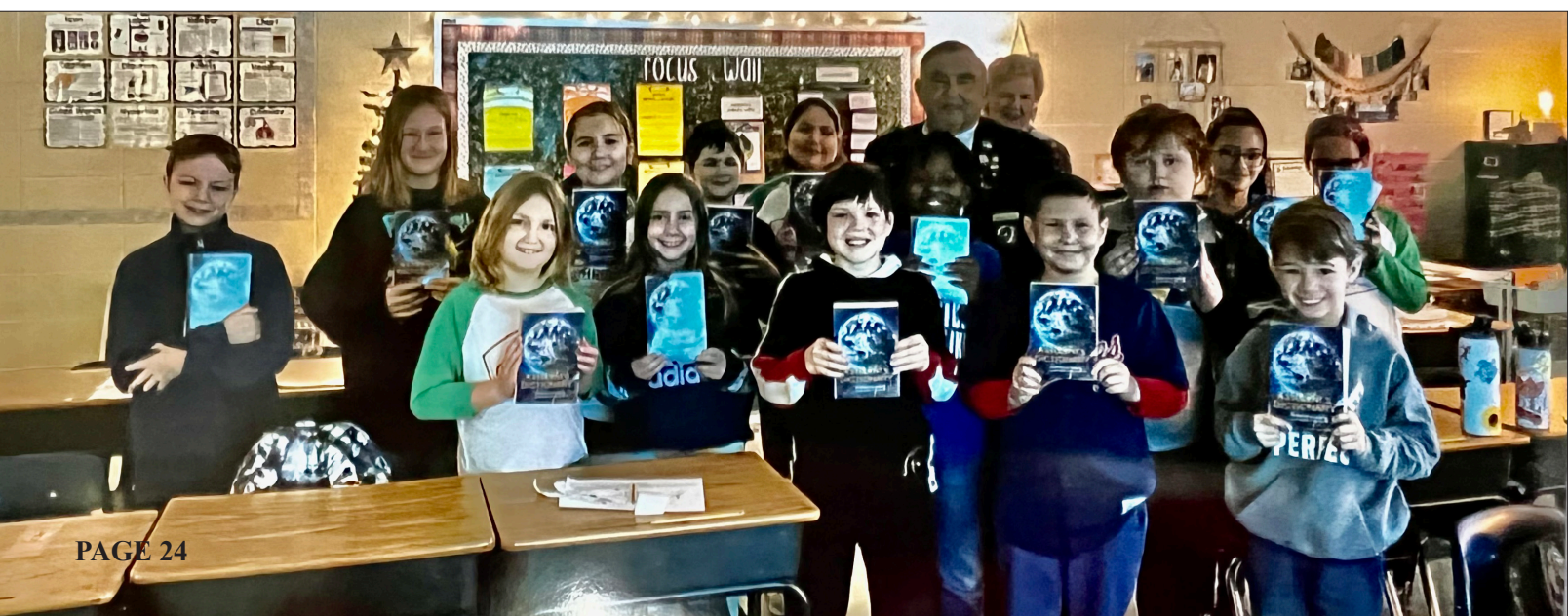


More fun at the **Douglas Lodge #1286's** luau



Eatonton Lodge #2549 held a food distribution and had a wonderful time handing out Thanksgiving boxes to the people that needed them.

Below, Gainesville Lodge #1126 delivered dictionaries in December to the forth grade classes in five schools. The students love getting them and the teacher uses the dictionaries a lot because all the students have one to use. They all are so happy to see us come. Pictured ER Calvin Sneed with the class.





LaFayette Lodge #2018 held a Charity Ride Pancake breakfast and Chili Cookoff



Lake Oconee Lodge #2849 enjoyed a "Month of Giving" to its surrounding communities in December. Members made a \$2,000 donation to the Greene County Empty Stocking Fund, a \$2,000 donation to the Hancock County Helping Hands Food Pantry, a \$1,000 donation to the Putnam Fire Rescue toy program, a \$1,000 donation to the Eatonton FD toy program and a \$2,000 donation to the Morgan County Food Bank which is pictured above. Pictured L-R: Lodge members Bill Kirwen, Bill Ashburn, John White, Sherry Terrell (Director of the Program), State President Bob Colie, Peter Wibell (board member) and lodge members Bill Lewis, PSP and Mike DePetrillo



Lake Oconee Lodge #2849 took part in Wreaths Across America on December 18, 2021 at three locations, Milledgeville Veterans Cemetery, Greensboro City Cemetery and Lake Oconee Lodge's Veterans Wall. The National program was held at the Milledgeville location (Pictured L-R: Dave Tateyama, Chairman, Doug Miller, Kelly Miller, Steve Petrie and Tom Lynn attended). Bill Lewis, PSP led the program at the Greensboro City Cemetery and Mary Zachary led the program at the lodge's Veterans Wall. The lodge donated over 200 wreaths at the three locations.

Below, Lake Oconee Lodge #2849 treated the veterans at the Ga War Veterans Home to a Chic-Fil-A lunch in December. Several of the veterans had specifically asked for this meal. They also were served Krispy Kreme Donuts, one of their favorite desserts. Pictured to the left L-R: GEA State Pres. Bob Colie, Chairman Mary Zachary, Bill Lewis, PSP, Bob Bartleson, Beth Colie, Chuck Brake, Mike DePetrillo, Jesse Zachary & ER Scott Pitochelli. Pictured to the right are the veterans enjoying lunch.





Marietta Lodge #1657 held a Chili Cook Off that raised over \$400 for their Needy Families charity.



The wonderful Santa's elves of **Marietta Lodge #1657** shopped for needy families-A Little Lodge with a Big Heart.



Marietta Lodge #1657 wants to say Thank You to Santa who stopped by for cookies, milk and photos. It was a magical time! We were so blessed with all the families and especially the children, of all ages, who stopped by.



Below, Savannah Lodge #183 made donations of \$1,000 to the Savannah Jewish Community Center, \$1,000 to the Heads Up Guidance Services and \$1,000 to the Coastal Pet Rescue. Pictured in the green jackets are 3rd from left Stanley Rosenberg and far right Charlie Hendricks, PSP presenting the donations using the Beacon/Spotlight Grants. The lodge also used the Beacon/Spotlight Grant to donate \$1,500 worth of socks, hats, and gloves to the Stand Down project for the homeless veterans. The lodge also used the grant to buy lawn equipment so that lodge members can help people in the lodge neighborhood who are not able to take care of their yards themselves.





Savannah Lodge #183's Tom Curran, Stanley Rosenberg and Bill Becker packed 500 bags with socks, knit hats and gloves. Also in the bags were hygiene supplies and non perishable goods. The bags were then taken to the homeless veterans living under the Truman Parkway and to several shelters. This was just one of the five projects, already mentioned, that the lodge used the Beacon/Spotlight Grant to help their community.



Savannah Lodge #183 held their annual Christmas party for military children, foster children and children from the community on Sunday, December 19th. There were 120 children and their parents in attendance at the lodge. Everyone enjoyed a fantastic lunch prepared by Elks members & the Ladies Auxiliary. The ER read the *Night Before Christmas* and when he finished Santa & his Elves came in to meet with each child & give them a special Christmas present.



More fun at the **Savannah Lodge #183's** annual Christmas party for military children, foster children and children from the community.

Below, Toccoa Lodge #1820 collected and donated items and money to the Stephens County and Habersham Animal Shelters. Thank you to Jackie and Don Hamby for hosting the drive at the Lodge. Madi, Floyd, Todd, Chris, Megan, Jennifer, Olivia, Yolanda and Bill (not all are in the photo) from Habersham. Jeff, Marilyn, Donna, Sonya, Lynelka, Sharna, and Roger from Stephens County with Jackie Hamby and ER Mike Skrzykowskiak from the Elks.



Toccoa Lodge #1820 decorated a float and road in the Veterans parade. Thank you everyone for all the help. The Toccoa Elk Veterans had a great time riding on the float. A big thank you to Missy Payne for organizing this event. Special thank you to guest helper Ann Maggard.

Below, Valdosta Lodge #728 wrapped gifts, packed food boxes and distributed the boxes and gifts on December 20 & 21st. Thank you to everyone that helped.



Georgia Elks Association Fall Meeting Toccoa Elks Lodge #1820 October 23, 2021



**PSP Tim Whalen's
Minutes**

The Georgia Elks Association met for its Fall Quarterly Meeting at the Toccoa Elks Lodge #1820 on Saturday, October 23, 2021. The meeting was called to order by President Bob Colie at 1:00 P. M. President Colie called on Chaplain Tobin Sexton to deliver the Invocation & President-Elect Nita Knighton to lead the Pledge to the Flag.

Exalted Ruler Mike Skrzyzkowiak from the Toccoa Lodge #1820 welcomed the members to the Lodge for this meeting. It has been several years since Toccoa hosted a meeting. They have done an excellent job. Exalted Ruler Skrzyzkowiak thanked all for coming and making this a memorable weekend.

President Colie recognized the head table, G. E. A. officers, Grand Lodge officers & the Past State Presidents in attendance. He then called on Secretary/Treasurer Tim Whalen to call roll for the officers & Lodges.

The following officers were absent: Sgt at Arms Steve Shirah & Historian John Helgesen. Three Lodges were marked absent. They were Douglas #1286; Eatonton #2549 & Jesup #2133. A quorum was present to conduct the business of the Association.

A motion was made by Vance Rhodes, seconded by Larry Emmett to dispense with the reading of the minutes. The motion was approved.

Sickness & Distress

None reported

Comments

- Sandra Smith, wife of P. N. P. Mike Smith, said she has had a great time in Toccoa this weekend. As the Grand Lodge National Convention will be held in Atlanta in July of 2022, we will need items for "goodie baskets" for our V. I. P.s. Sandra requested items from our 3 districts to help fill the bags. We need 40 of each item for distribution.

Reports

- President Colie stressed the need for membership, to initiate those in-waiting & to work on delinquent members. He suggested hosting "family events" at the Lodge to increase participation. He thanked the Toccoa Lodge for a wonderful meeting. We have over 110 registered at this time. He reminded the Lodges of the F. R. S. & that reports are due each month. Contact your district coordinator if you need help.
- President-Elect Nita Knighton brought up membership & delinquents. Participation is the key; keep your members involved at the Lodge.
- Board of Directors Chairman Bruce Hayden reported that the Board has approved the Georgia Elks Association 2021 manual as a guideline for officers. The Board is working on a 5-year calendar for upcoming events. The Convention manual will be reviewed and updated as needed. A By-Law proposal will be presented to the Lodges for a vote at the Spring meeting in Savannah. The proposal is to "change the name of the "E. R. Academy" to the "Leadership Academy". Notice will be sent to the Lodges prior to the vote in Savannah.
- Abe Wilkinson, C. O. O. of Georgia Elks Aidmore, urged all to keep Aidmore in your prayers, that God is in control. Aidmore has done well throughout the pandemic & better days are ahead. We look for rate increases from the State for our on-campus children as well as for our therapeutic foster care children. Aidmore does make a difference in the lives of children. Abe announced that Vickey Hale will become the new C. O. O. in July of 2022.

District Deputy G. E. R.s

Larry Pope, Georgia Southern; Dan Tatum, Georgia N. W. & Steve Petrie, Georgia N. E. are all currently making their visits and helping to solve problems that may arise in their respective district.

Vice Presidents

Brian Russell, Georgia N. E.; Greg Shelby, Georgia N. W. & Bill Becker, Georgia Southern are completing their Lodge visits & helping to involve the Lodges in their districts to work with the programs of the Georgia Elks Association.

Special Deputy G. E. R. Bruce Hayden introduced our State Sponsor & Past National President Mike Smith. Mike thanked the Georgia Elks for their hospitality this weekend. He spoke about membership & how Georgia needs to be sitting at the front of the convention hall in Atlanta during the 2022 convention. The Elks National Foundation is the heartbeat of Elkdom. Please consider becoming a sustaining member of the Foundation. What we give to the Foundation is returned two-fold to Georgia & is the primary source of funding to our Charitable projects. Please be prepared for your District Deputy visits; much can be accomplished if the Lodge is prepared for the visit.

Committee Reports

- Youth Activities; Chuck Myers: Chuck spoke about the "Kids Miracle League Baseball" program for special needs children. This is a program that all Lodges could become involved in.
- Soccer; Junior Roberson: The State Shoot-Off will be held on Sunday, November 21st at Aidmore. The contest will begin at 2:00 P. M. Seven Lodges are participating this year. The Regional Shoot-Off will be held on January 22nd & 23rd at the Florida Youth Camp in Umatilla, Florida.
- Youth Scholarships; Junior Roberson: Scholarship forms are available now. Please participate in this important program. Our state winners will be with us at the Annual meeting in June on Jekyll Island.
- Hoop-Shoot; Vance Rhodes: Vance reported on changes in the Hoop-Shoot rules. Encourage your Lodge to participate in this program. Call for help if needed to put on your local program. District directors are Bob Reardon, Southern, Chuck Myers, Northeast & Randy Keener, Northwest.
- Drug Awareness; Cyndi Russell: Cyndi announced the Coloring contest & the Essay contest. Cyndi has pamphlets on Drug Abuse available if needed in your Lodge. Please call her if needed.
- Lodge Activities; Cyndi Russell: Cyndi announced that the Toccoa Lodge was the winner of the Lodge Activities contest for the year.
- Disaster Relief; Mike Skrzyzkowiak: Mike has requested information from each Lodge on a contact person in the event of an emergency. Please provide this information so we may be prepared.
- Americanism; Greg Shelby: This year's topic will be "What does it mean to love your Country"? This is a great program for our youth to participate in. Greg and his committee are also working on another good program for our Annual meeting in June.
- Public Safety Officer of the Year; Piker Penn: Piker has distributed his information packets to each Lodge. The winner will be announced at our Annual meeting on Jekyll Island in June.
- Elks National Foundation; Ned Thompson: Ned urged all to meet the per capita goal set by the Grand Exalted Ruler. Our contributions are returned to Georgia two-fold and help to fund our Charitable contributions & programs.
- VAVS; Tobin Sexton: Tobin reviewed a calendar of Veterans activities across the State. He recognized Augusta & Dalton for their Veterans activities & programs. He suggested that you look to see how you can help a Veteran in need. Maureen Manning is chairman of this committee.
- Auditing & Accounting; Jane Santee: Jane says she has a good group to work with & they are available to the Lodges as needed. She reminded everyone of the on-going concerns of UBIT.
- Athletic Activities; Mike Johnson: Jekyll Island will once again be the site of our Corn Hole & Horseshoe contests. Bring money & be ready to participate.
- Insurance; Bob Lewkowicz: The Insurance newsletter is available on-line. Please review it & put suggestions to use. We have had one recent claim from the Savannah Lodge.
- Ritual; Stan Jones: Georgia will provide a Ritual team for the Grand Lodge Convention to be held in Atlanta in July of 2022. This team will perform to qualify the judges prior to the official contest. It will be made up from Elks across the State.

- E. R. Academy; Jane Santee: We will return to Macon on April 8th & 9th, 2022 for the Academy. We had a great turnout last year and expect a better group in 2022. We will meet at the Macon Marriott once again. The opening session will begin Friday evening & go throughout the day on Saturday. Topics will range from "Stray Elks Program", "Brother Lodges", "Fund Raisers Should Be Fun" to "Grants" among others. Breakout sessions will be held on topics such as "FRS Help", "Grants Help" & "Officer Round Tables". A dinner & social will be held on Friday night. Please make your plans to attend. There will be a By-Law amendment proposed to change the name of the Academy from its current name to the "Leadership Academy". This will better reflect the goals & purpose of the Academy as it now exists.
- Conventions; Tim Whalen: Tim spoke about our upcoming meetings: Spring meeting in Savannah, February 25th & 26th, 2022; Annual meeting on Jekyll Island, June 9th, 10th & 11th, 2022 & the Grand Lodge Convention to be held in Atlanta, July 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th, 2022. Volunteer workers are needed for the Atlanta convention. Please offer your assistance to the committee to be a part of this special event for Georgia Elks.
- Membership; Steve Petrie: Steve reported the Blitzes were successful. Materials and supplies used at the events are available for your use as needed. Steve says there is no rest in membership recruiting. Use your Lecturing & Loyal Knights to contact delinquent members. If you are not happy with the results, do something.

Installation of Officers

Past State President Charlie Hendricks installed the following officers of the Georgia Elks Association: Tobin Sexton, Chaplain; Cathy Myers, Sgt at Arms & Lynda Lewis, Editor, Georgia Elks News.

Old Business

The "Beast Buggy" raffle is complete for this year. Georgia Elks sold 289 tickets to the raffle, netting \$13,900.00 to go to the Georgia Elks Association. Thanks for your hard work on this raffle & support of the Association.

New Business

President Colie presented Lynda Lewis with a Grand Lodge 5 Star certificate for the Georgia Elks News, an excellent publication highlighting the news & events occurring in our Georgia Lodges. Thank you, Lynda.

Resolutions

The Convention Resolutions were read by Vance Rhodes. A motion to approve was made by Stanley Santee, seconded by Gary Robinette. The motion was approved.

There being no further business for the Association, President Colie called on Chaplain Tobin Sexton to deliver the Benediction. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Whalen

Tim Whalen, Secretary/Treasurer
Georgia Elks Association

Credentials Report

Northeast	34
Northwest	27
Southern	27
P. N. P.	01
Grand Total	89

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 and Elks Aidmore**

ALBANY LODGE #713

3213 Gillionville Road Albany, GA 31721
 229-436-4896
 Meetings 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 7:30 PM
 Billiard Tournaments
 2nd & 4th Wednesdays
 Meals Served On Those Evenings at 6:30
 Food Served Every Friday Night at 6:30
 Dinner and Dances On Special Occasions

AUGUSTA LODGE #205

205 Elksdom Court
 Augusta, GA 30907

Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday @ 7:30 pm

AugustaElksLodge205@gmail.com

Call for open hours schedule
 706-726-2070



BRUNSWICK LODGE #691

1509 Union Street, Brunswick, GA 31520
 Phone (912) 264-1389
 Meetings 1st & 3rd Thursday @ 7:00 pm
 Bingo Tuesday night doors open at 5:00 pm
 Games start at 6:30 pm
 Darts & Food specials on Wed. night 6:00 pm
 Fish Fry every 3rd Friday
 11:00 am to 2 pm open to public
 Friday Night Dinner 6:30 pm
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Phone (706) 629-4091
 From I-75 take Ext. 317,
 Go 1/4 mile east on GA 225
 Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:00 pm

CARTERSVILLE LODGE #1969

Lodge Location: Highway 113
 Cartersville, GA 30120

Mailing Address: P O Box 566
 Cartersville, GA 30120
 770-382-3557

Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday @ 8:00 pm
 Open: Sunday Noon - 5:00 pm
 Monday and Thursday 6:30 - 10:00 pm
 Saturday Call for Schedule

COVINGTON ELKS LODGE #1806 ECHO

(Elks in the Community Helping Others)
 135 Crowell Rd. Covington, GA 30014
 770-787-9499
elks1806@hotmail.com
 Meetings: 3rd Tuesday
 Lounge, Gaming Room, Bingo,
 RV Parking and More!
 Open: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 5:00 pm

DALTON LODGE #1267

Located off I-75
 1212 Elkwood Dr. Dalton, GA 30722
 Bar Open 7 days/week
 Restaurant Open Thurs., Fri & Sat
 Motor home parking
 Pool

Meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays @ 7:00 pm
www.daltonelks.org
 706-278-6565

GAINESVILLE ELKS LODGE #1126

Chartered in 1940
 Meeting 3rd Tuesday @ 7:30 pm
 American Legion Post #7
 2343 Riverside Drive, Gainesville, GA
 30501

Interested in this Lodge?
sneed1404@att.net
 770-532-1404

GRIFFIN LODGE #1207

Lodge Location: 324 E Broad St.
 Suite 222, Griffin, GA 30223
 Mailing Address: P O Box 257
 Griffin, GA 30223

Meets 2nd & 4th Monday @ 7:00 pm
 Call for operating hours
 Monthly dinners- Call for information

JESUP LODGE #2133

Lodge Location: 1802 US Hwy 301
 Jesup, GA 31546
 Mailing Address: P O Box 154
 Jesup, GA 31598
 912-427-3339

Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday @ 7:30 pm
 Open: 1st, 3rd & Last Tuesday of month
 Open Meeting nights only 7:00-10:00 pm

LAFAYETTE LODGE #2018

Lodge Location: 3158 North Hwy 27
 LaFayette, GA 30728-1162
 423-595-2857

Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday @ 7:30 pm
 Friday night Food and Fun
 (call ahead 706-638-3591)
 Open Tuesday-Saturday 5:00 pm
 Pool Rentals Available
 Lodge Banquet Hall Rentals

LAKE OCONEE LODGE #2849

1116 Lake Oconee Parkway
 Suite 2070
 Eatonton, GA 31024
 706-991-1499 after 3:00 pm
 Mtgs. 1st & 3rd Thursday @ 6:00 pm

Lodge Open: Kitchen Open:
 Mon-Fri 3:00 pm Mon-Fri 5-9:00 pm
 Sat & Sun 1:00 pm Sat & Sun Bar Menu

MARIETTA LODGE #1657

Location: 1706 Powder Springs Rd.
 Marietta, GA 30061
 Mailing Address: P O Box 34
 Marietta, GA 30061
 770-337-7256

Meets 1st Tuesday @ 7:00 pm
 Open: Fridays 6:00 - 9:00 pm
 Saturdays 1:00 - 5:00 pm
 Sundays 1:00 - 5:00 pm

TIFTON ELKS LODGE #1114

OPEN WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY,
 FRIDAY and SATURDAY

FROM 5-9 pm

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TOCCOA LODGE #1820

Hours: Mon-Fri 4:00 - 11:00 pm
Sat 3:00 - 9:00 pm
706-886-6531

Food: Wed Buffet 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Thursday - Bar Menu 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Fri. Dining Room Menu 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Bingo - Sun & Wed 7:00 pm
Email: ToccoaElks@truvista.net

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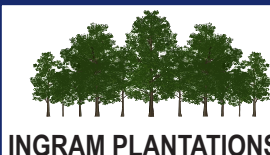
7090 Oakley Industrial Blvd.
Union City, GA 30291
(770) 969-1952
Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ 8:00 pm
Email: UCElks1617@att.net

VALDOSTA LODGE #728

2309 Hwy 84 West
Valdosta, GA 31601
229-242-3012
Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday @ 7:30 pm
Open: Friday 6:00 pm - til
Bingo: Monday
Call for additional information

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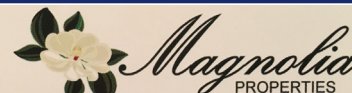
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Bruce Hayden, PSP
Special Deputy

2021-2022

Valdosta Lodge #728

bhayden@alphaprotech.com

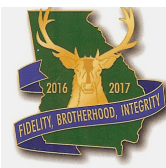


Bill Lewis
Past State
President

Lake Oconee Lodge #2849

770-337-9010

blewiselk2849@gmail.com



Gary Robinette
Past State President

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foundation of all
honorable endeavors."

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