

GEORGIA *Elks* NEWS

February 2025

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Douglas A. Schiefer
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 28-Mar. 1 GEA Spring Meeting in Cartersville
March 15 Regional Hoop Shoot in Valdosta
April 4-5 Leadership Academy, Covington Lodge
May Aidmore Open House
June 12-14 Annual Convention on Jekyll Island
June 29/30 & July 1/2 Grand Lodge Convention
in Kansas City, Missouri



Lynda Lewis
Editor
Ga Elks News

Welcome to 2025! It is almost time for the Spring meeting which will be held in Cartersville, Georgia February 28 and March 1. We will be welcoming our Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas A. Schiefer and First Lady Julia. Also joining us are the President-Elects from MS, Bob Daniel (Jean), AL, Gary Johnson (Jackie) & FL VPAL, Mike Chandler (Caroline). Plan to attend and welcome our guests to Georgia.

Kevin Baker, from the Lake Oconee Lodge is on the cover of February's magazine placing the wreath representing our POW/MIA's during the Wreaths Across America program that took place on December 14, 2024 at the Greensboro City Cemetery in Greensboro, GA. Wreaths Across America is a nationwide non-profit organization that organizes wreath-laying ceremonies at veterans' graves across the United States and abroad on "National Wreaths Across America Day". It is held each December to "Remember the Fallen, Honor those who Serve, and Teach our children the value of Freedom" through this tradition. Read about this great program on

page 17. Hope to see you all in Cartersville!

Dan Tatum
President
Georgia Elks Association
2024-2025

Larry R. Pope
President-Elect
Georgia Elks Association
2024-2025

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PHOTOS & ADS
(full resolution photos) to:
gaelksnews@gmail.com

or postal mail to:
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Greensboro, GA 30642
Page 3

Lynda Lewis
EDITOR
PHOTOGRAPHER

John Helgesen
EDITOR EMERITUS



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DOUGLAS A. SCHIEFER

GRAND EXALTED RULER

2024-2025

Douglas Allen Schiefer was born in Bucyrus, Ohio on February 14th, “Valentine baby” to Richard A. Schiefer and Alice A. (Acton) Schiefer. Doug was the middle son of three brothers, David, the eldest and Robert, the youngest. Doug attended elementary, middle, and high school in Bucyrus, graduating in 1976 as a three sport athlete (football, basketball and track). During the fall of Doug’s senior year in high school, the family and community suffered the devastating and tragic loss of Robert’s life-ending heart attack during a high school gym class.

In June of 1975, Doug met his future wife, Julia Sponseller, a California girl new from a local high school. Doug married his high school sweetheart Julia on September 11, 1976. Doug and Julia value their faith, family and community. Having been blessed with an amazing family, they have passed that legacy onto their three children: Heather, Lesley and Robert; sons-in-law, Erik and Joel, and four wonderful grandchildren: Ethan, Evan, Owen and Jane.

In August of 1977, Doug moved his new family to Berea, Ohio to attend Baldwin-Wallace college to pursue his education and play football for the “Yellow Jackets” head coach

Dr. Lee Tressel. During his four years at B-W, Doug played football as a punter, was a Four-year Letterman and Four-year All Conference Punter; 1978 NCAA Division III National Champions; and 2018 Baldwin-Wallace Athletics Hall of Fame Award. In 1981, Doug received his Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice. Doug enjoyed a thirty-four year career with the Ohio Adult Parole Authority, starting in 1983 as a probation/parole officer. He received Parole Officer of the Year award in 1997, and was then promoted to Parole Services Supervisor until his retirement in 2017.

Doug was initiated into Bucyrus Elks Lodge No. 156 on May 10, 1984, having been proposed for membership by his high school best friend Bill Metzger. Doug is a third generation Elk and became an active and dedicated member having chaired or served on numerous Lodge committees, progressed through the chairs, was installed as Exalted Ruler in April 1988-1989, and again in 1996-1997; was Elk of the Year in 1992-1993; has served or chaired as Lodge Trustee from 1991-1996, and again from 2009-2014, and was elected an Honorary Life Member of the Bucyrus Lodge on February 12, 2015.

Doug served the North Central District of Ohio as Drug Awareness Chairman from 1990 to 1999; as Executive Board Member from 1991 to 1996; as Activities Chairman in 1996-1997, and as Judiciary Committee Chairman from 2015 to present.

Doug served the Ohio Elks Association as Assistant State Drug Awareness Chairman in 1996-1997; as State Chaplain in 2000-2001; as State Secretary in 2001-2002, as Third Vice President in 2002-2003, as Second Vice President in 2003-2004, as State Trustee from 2004 to 2007, final year as Chairman; as First Vice President in 2007-2008, as State President in 2008-2009; as Chairman of the Advisory Committee in 2010-2011, and as Chairman of the Elks Leadership Kollege from 2019 to 2021.

Doug served the Grand Lodge with distinction as District Deputy in 1998-1999; as a Special Representative to several Lodges within his district; as Area 4 Fraternal Committee Member from 2013 to 2018, the final two years as Chairman; and as Area 4 Lodge Activities Committee Member from 2018 to 2021. In 2021, Doug was elected to represent Area 4 on the Board of Grand Trustees, serving as Building Applications-East Member in 2021-2022; as Home Member in 2022-2023, and is presently serving as Secretary of the Board for 2023-2024.

On a civic level, Doug served his community on the Bucyrus City Schools Board of Education from 2004 to 2017 and as school board president from 2007 to 2012. He also served as board member and finance chairman at Bucyrus First Church of the Nazarene; has worked with the youth of Ohio as a licensed track & field and cross country official for over thirty-two years; and since 2018, Doug and Julia spend time visiting our veterans at the Ohio Veterans Home as volunteers.

Doug and Julia are thankful and humbled to represent our great Order of Elks as Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady. We’re excited and looking forward to the adventures ahead, visiting our Elks communities throughout America and meeting new friends as we promote our Theme....”**ELKDOM’S HEART FOR AMERICA**”.



Dan Tatum
GEA President

As I have achieved the first half of my term as your President, I want to thank you for your support. It was enjoyable and rewarding.

I hope you had a wonderful and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our Georgia Elks Association Spring Meeting is in Cartersville, February 28th and March 1st. We are honored to have our Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas A. Schiefer and his wife Julia join us at our Georgia Elks Association Spring Meeting. It is also rewarding to have Mike Chandler and his wife Caroline, Endorsed President of Florida Elks Association, Gary Johnson, President Elect of Alabama Elks Association and his companion Jackie, as well as Bob Daniel and his wife Jean from the Mississippi Elks Association at the GEA Spring Meeting.

Although we have experienced some accomplishments in our membership of some Lodges, we are far from reaching our goals. It is every member's responsibility to focus on membership and delinquent members. Please make a commitment and offer the effort to reach out to current delinquent members and encourage these members to come back into this wonderful Order. Remind them of the great things we do and the impact we have on our communities and the State of Georgia.

I encourage your lodges to support the veterans and work to improve their physical and mental challenges. Let our veterans know the Elks appreciate their service, sacrifices and "As Long as There Are Veterans, they will Never be Forgotten."

I encourage every member to meet the per capita contribution to ENF in their name rather than the Lodge's name. We will receive more credit based on the number of members contributing. We are thirteenth (13th) in the Nation for donations. We want to move up. Please reach out to Brain Russell who chairs the state ENF committee for guidance and support: The ENF Golf Tournament will be held May 17th at Apple Mountain Golf Course in Clarksville, Ga.

Please support our state project Admore. I want to applaud Dr. Hale and her staff, Stan Santee and the board of directors and the Lodge Trustees for their commitment and dedication to our state project. I ask that you join me in pledging support for Aidmore. Please participate in the \$8 for Aidmore program. Just \$8 a month, less than the cost of a Chick-FI-A meal, will provide a much-needed reoccurring revenue for our state project.

The District Deputy and Georgia Leadership Academy will be held April 4th and 5th at the Covington Lodge presented by Jane Santee.

We are ELKS and we apply Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity to our oath, our thoughts, our commitments, our actions, and to all those we come in contact with.

We have been approved for \$167,500 in Lodge Grants with some pending. There is still \$37,000 to claim. Lodges please do not leave this funding on the table. Apply for all the grants you can.

Fraternally,
Dan Tatum
President, Georgia Elks Association



Barbara Burnett
President, Elks
Aidmore Auxiliary

The A-TRAIN made stops in Savannah, Calhoun, Brunswick, and Albany. The Auxiliaries raised money for community charities, collected school supplies and clothing, held programs for youth, foster children, and veterans, helped families in need, provided meals and transportation for ill or injured lodge members, awarded scholarships, donated time and money for lodge improvements, and held fun events to support Aidmore. Thank you ladies for your dedication and hard work.

The A-TRAIN's final stop in 2024 was Conyers for the Aidmore tree decorating and Christmas party where we shared our gratitude and blessings with the Aidmore staff, residents and each other. I cannot recall a more beautiful Christmas party. Our gift from the residents was a heartwarming performance of The Christmas Story and a moving performance of African Drumming. This was a day of celebration and pure joy. Thanks to all who helped make it so special.

Now is the time to focus on 2025. I encourage all Auxiliaries and members to participate in the Eight For Aidmore program. For your donation of just eight dollars a month, you can help change the lives of foster children. Informational brochures with pledge cards will be available at the Aidmore booth in Cartersville. You can also contact Aidmore direct to make your donation.

Next stop is Cartersville for the Spring Meeting. Come and meet the Grand Exalted Ruler, Douglas Schiefer and First Lady Julia. Tour the Savoy Car Museum, tour and shop on Cartersville's historic Main Street.

The most excitement happening will be at the Cartersville Lodge at 3:00 PM on Friday February, 28th when the Auxiliary pros will be competing in horseshoes and corn hole. Be there to play, cheer on your favorite team, and enjoy refreshments. See y'all there.

ALL ABOARD!

Barbara Burnett





Mike Smith
PGER, PNP

HAPPY 2025 ! I hope we ALL have a great year and a great life. We are closing in on another Elk Year and we need to finish Strong. It is up to ALL of the Georgia Elks Association members to focus on making this year a landmark year. As of this writing the GEA is ranked thirteenth in Elks National Foundation donations. Very respectable and we can improve to be even greater. For every dollar you donate you receive approximately \$2.00 back in Grants. Our membership is in need of each Lodge to engage your members to be active and reduce our delinquent members.

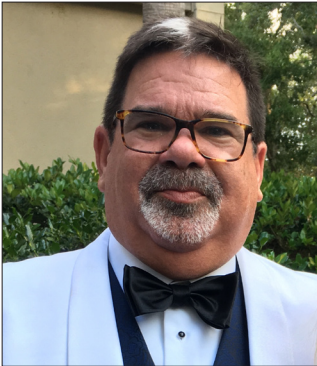
We need to show our appreciation to State President Dan Tatum and his Committeepersons for leading our Association this year. Our endorsed State President, Larry Pope and wife, Ana, are eager to take the GEA to the next level. Let's express our congratulations in early March in Cartersville as we welcome our Grand Exalted Ruler, Doug Schiefer and First Lady Julia as they visit the GEA. They are from Ohio and are representing our Order nationwide this year.

As the Elk's year comes to an end we all should recognize the District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers who have spent countless hours growing our Lodges. We also welcome the incoming DDGER's serving the ensuing year. Come join us and meet with friends and learn about your potentials as a member of the GEA.

Sandra and I look forward to seeing everyone soon and may GOD BLESS US ALL and GOD Bless our

United States of America.

Michael F. Smith, PGER/PNP
Georgia State Elks Association, State Sponsor



Bruce Hayden, PSP
Special Deputy
Past Grand Tiler

It is that time of the year to nominate & elect officers for your Lodge. It is a serious time that you need to pay close attention to. The elected Officers of your Lodge are the one's who manage the day to day affairs of your Lodge. This includes the business side of being a Lodge, paying the bills, making sure revenue is coming in, managing any employees and seeing that ALL aspects of your Lodge is profitable. So, the Officers have to have the mind set to run a business, manage conflicts within the Lodge and know how to manage employees. As a reminder it is a REQUIREMENT for the Exalted Ruler to attend the Grand Lodge Session, all DDGER Clinics, Officer Training Academy, all State Association meetings and of course be the individual running your Lodge meetings every month. It is also a requirement of the Leading Knight, Secretary and Board Chairman to attend the DDGER Clinics as well as the Officer Training Academy. ALL Officers are required to attend ALL Lodge meetings and ALL Board of Director meetings at the Lodge. If you just put a body in a chair that does not fulfill these obligations then they will not be in that chair long. Our Lodge can only be as successful as the leaders that you, the MEMBER, nominate AND elect to assume the financial and management operations of your Lodge.

With the changing of the guard, it is also time to clean up the small things like taxes, business licenses, bingo licenses and liquor licenses. These things need to be followed up on to ensure your Lodge is legal to operate. It is also time to look at your Lodge & Club Bylaws to ensure they are current & correct. Ask for a Committee list of the Lodge committees to make sure that they are filled and see if you have an interest in helping with the committees.

You see, being the Officers of the Lodge isn't just a title, it requires work and dedication to make sure that everything is running properly. So who will be the leaders of YOUR Lodge?

BE LOUD, PROUD AND VISIBLE!!!!

Welcome all Georgia Elks to 2025! The GEA Past State Presidents (PSP) Association wishes all Lodges a Safe, Happy and Prosperous 2025 in support of our communities.

Your PSPs have had a successful 2024 in putting together a scholarship proposal we think will have significant long term benefits for students pursuing an education in the Nursing profession. We've talked about this proposal in past GEA meetings and its been reviewed by both the GEA Board of Directors and the GEA Charity Board. Additionally, your approval was provided in a discussion and vote at a 2024 GEA meeting.

I'd like to give you a little more specific information about the proposal as we work to document the details of the program and how it will be managed and executed. The proposal is for a 4 year scholarship of \$2500 per year for students desiring a career in nursing at the RN level. We will offer one new scholarship per year, managing up to 4 students at any year. The program will be funded from the Fred Boska Elks Charity Trust. We expect to continue with 4 students until our trust grows to a point where we can add more scholarships. More details will be provided in an update at the GEA Spring meeting in Cartersville.

Fraternally,

Robert Colie
President, GEA PSP Association



Bob Colie
President, GEA PSP
Association

GEA Fall Meeting in Albany

Business Meeting



Mary Binns and Joyce Langford



Michelle Langham and Amber Henderson



Steven Spradley, PSP and Bobby Carter, PSP



Beth & Bob Colie, PSP



Steve Petrie,
State Membership Chair



Debbie Dougherty,
Albany Lodge ER



GEA President Dan Tatum &
Lynda Lewis, Ga Elks News Editor

Top left are the Albany Welcome Ladies, left, Mary Binns & right, Joyce Langford. Top far right and middle row are members getting ready for the GEA fall business meeting. Far left bottom row Beth & Bob Colie, PSP, second from left, Steve Petrie gave his membership presentation, second from the right ER Debbie Dougherty welcomed everyone to the Albany Lodge and far right Lynda Lewis accepted on behalf of the GEA the 5 star awards for the Georgia Elks News and the GEA Website.

Candidate Party



John White, center won a new rifle in the raffle. Pictured with John are left, Mike Smith, PGER and State Sponsor and right, Bob Colie, PSP.



Steve Petrie, Candidate for Pres.-Elect to the right and Stacey Simmons, NE VP on the left.



A couple of ladies enjoying the party.

Banquet & Awards



Aidmore Awards were given out at the banquet Saturday night. Pictured left to right: Dr. Vickey Hale, CEO of Aidmore, Peggy Rhodes, PSP Aux., holding Dalton's plaque for the NW District highest overall donations, Mike Parker holding Dalton's plaque for Statewide highest overall donations, Al Deutsch, Savannah ER with plaque for highest per capita South, Stanley Santee, PSP and Aidmore President, Brian Russell holding Toccoa's two plaques (one for NE highest overall donations and one for NE District highest per capita donations), Piker Penn, Sarah Hendricks, PSP Aux., holding Savannah's plaque for the highest per capita donations Statewide, Christie Corbin, Valdosta ER, holding Valdosta's plaque for the South District highest overall donations, and JoAnne Bennett, President-Elect Auxiliary



Covington Lodge made a \$2500 donation to Veterans. Accepting the donation was State Veterans' Chair Maureen Manning. Pictured left to right: Miriam Wheeler, Miriam Witherspoon Wheeler, Sande Jackson, Bernie Kennerweg, Maureen Manning, Jeff Rouderbush, Cindy Rouderbush and Aidmore CEO Dr. Vickey Hale (inset photo, Jeff Rouderbush making the donation to Maureen Manning)

Ladies Auxiliary in Albany



Elks Aidmore Auxiliary Past State Presidents enjoyed lunch at Bianca's. L-R Standing: Mickie Emmett, Sarah Hendricks, Barbara Burnett, Current Aux. President, Nancy Strickland, Petite Yost, Deborah Johnson, Peggy Rhodes, Harriet Watson and Cheryl Wilson. Sitting L-R: Pam Stewart and Eula Rupert.



1st place horseshoes, Nancy Strickland, PSP Aux., center, presented Mickie Emmett, PSP Aux., left, and Pam Stewart, PSP Aux. with their trophies.



Pictured L-R: 2nd place winners Kathy Carpenter & Stephanie West, Aux. NE VP and 1st place winners Pam Stewart, PSP Aux. and Mickie Emmett, PSP Aux.



2nd place horseshoes, Nancy Strickland, PSP Aux., center, presented Kathy Carpenter, left and Stephanie West, NE VP Aux. right with their trophies.



Pictured L-R: Sandy Miles, NW VP, Barbara Burnett, Pres. Aux., Cheryl Wilson, PSP Aux., and Shirl Cusick



L to R standing: Ana Pope & Debbie Barrett L to R seated: Judy Arden, South VP, BJ Hall-Stoudt and JoAnne Bennett, Pres.-Elect Aux.



Beth Colie won the ladies beautiful necklace that was raffled off. Pictured L-R: Sarah Hendricks, PSP Aux., Dr. Vickey Hale, Beth Colie, Barbara Burnett, Aux. Pres. and JoAnne Bennett, Aux. Pres.-Elect.

**GEA SPRING MEETING
Hilton Garden Inn
24 Liberty Drive
Cartersville, Georgia 30120**

Hosted by Cartersville Elks Lodge #1969

FRIDAY 28 & MARCH 1, 2025

Friday, February 28, 2025

Friday Dress Casual All Events

10:00 - 4:00 Registration Desk Open (at Hilton)
4:00 - 4:30 ER/Leading Knight Meeting (at Hilton)
4:00 - 5:00 Lodge Secretary/Treasurer Meeting (Hilton)
4:00 - 5:00 Past State Presidents Meeting (Hilton)
4:30 - 5:00 PER Association Meeting (Hilton)
5:00 - 6:00 GEA President mtg. with VPs/Pres.Elect (at the Cartersville Lodge)
5:00 - 7:00 Meet/Greet President Elect Candidate Steve Petrie (at the Cartersville Lodge)
7:00 Dinner at the Cartersville Lodge

Saturday, March 1, 2025

Breakfast on your own. **Dress: Casual for Meeting**
(Meetings at the Hilton Garden Inn)

8:00 - 1:00 Registration (Hilton)
9:00 - 9:30 Auditing & Accounting/IRS/Leadership Academy - Jane Santee
Ritual - Bruce Davis
Membership - Steve Petrie
9:30 - 9:45 Public Safety Officer - Arthur Anderson
Lodge Activities - Cyndi Russell
Drug Awareness - Cyndi Russell
9:45-10:00 Business Practices-Larry Pope, Pres.Elect
Memorial Service - Jane Santee
10:00-10:15 Hoop Shoot - Vance Rhodes, PSP
Americanism - Stanley Santee, PSP
Grants - Larry Pope, Pres. Elect
10:00-10:30 Convention - Tim Whalen, PSP, PGEsq.
10:15-10:30 ENF - Brian Russell
Youth Activities - Wendy Morris
10:30-10:45 Public Relations - Nita Knighton, PSP
Soccer - Junior Roberson, PSP
10:45-11:00 Elks Nat. Serv. (Vets)-Maureen Manning
Scholarships - Stan Jones, PSP
Leadership Training - Nita Knighton, PSP

11:00 - 1:00 LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

12:00-12:45 GEA Charity Board of Directors Mtg.
12:45 - 1:45 GEA Board of Directors Mtg.
1:45 - 3:45 GEA Business Meeting
3:45 - 5:45 Cornhole - Mike Johnson
5:00 - 6:00 Free Time

SHOOT OFF FOLLOWING BUSINESS MTG.

6:00 - 7:00 Cocktails at the Savoy
7:00 Banquet Dinner (Men-Coat & Tie)
(Ladies - Dressy) Banquet at the
Savoy Automobile Museum
3 Savoy Lane, Cartersville, GA 30120

**BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA at the HILTON
SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025
1:45 - 3:45 pm**

Welcome	Dan Tatum, President
Call to Order	Dan Tatum, President
Presentation of Colors	Marietta Lodge #1657
Pledge to Flag	Larry Pope, Pres. Elect
Invocation	Cyndi Russell, Chaplain
Welcome/Introduction	ER Bruce A. Covey

Into of Grand Lodge Officers Dan Tatum, President
Douglas A. Schiefer, GER
Mike Smith, PGER & State Sponsor
Bruce Hayden, SDGER & Past Grand Tiler

District Deputies, GER
Ed Whitcomb, DDGER, NE
Bethany Jackson, DDGER, NW
Brenda Sailors, DDGER, South

Intro of GEA Officers Dan Tatum, President
Tim Whalen, PSP, Past Grand Esquire, GEA Sec./Treas.
Cyndi Russell, Chaplain
Vance Rhodes, PSP, Parliamentarian
Larry Pope, President-Elect

Recognition of Past State Presidents

Recognition of District Vice Presidents
Charles Smith, VP South
Jonathan Edwards, VP NW
Stacey Simmons, VP NE

Recognition of President Elects & VPAL
Bob Daniel - Mississippi (Jean)
Gary Johnson - Alabama (Jackie)
Mike Chandler - Florida (VPAL) (Caroline)

Roll Call State Officers/Lodges	Tim Whalen, Sec/Treas.
Minutes of Previous Session	Tim Whalen, Sec/Treas.
Sickness & Distress	
(Always in Order)	Dan Tatum, President
Introduction of State Sponsor	Bruce Hayden, PSP
State Sponsor Remarks	Mike Smith, PGER
Grand Exalted Ruler Comments	Douglas A.Schiefer
Aidmore	Vickey Hale, CEO
(Donations to Aidmore)	Stanley Santee, PSP & Aidmore President

NON MEMBERS & GUESTS DEPART

Reports

President	Dan Tatum, President
President-Elect	Larry Pope, Pres. Elect
Chairman, BOD	Nita Knighton, PSP
Aidmore	Stanley Santee, PSP & Aidmore President

District Vice Presidents	Charles Smith, VP S Jonathan Edwards, VP NW Stacey Simmons, VP NE
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Business Meeting continued next page

Business Meeting continued

Reports of Committees

Membership	Steve Petrie
Audit & Accounting & Leadership Academy	Jane Santee
Business Practices	Larry Pope, Pres.Elect
Convention	Tim Whalen, PSP
Elks National Foundation	Brian Russell
Fundraising	Bethany Jackson, NWDD
Scholarships	Stan Jones, PSP
Grants	Larry Pope, Pres.Elect
Hoop Shoot	Vance Rhodes, PSP
Soccer	Junior Roberson, PSP
Youth Activities	Wendy Morris
Athletic Activities	Mike Johnson
Drug Aware./Lodge Activities	Cyndi Russell
Veterans	Maureen Manning
Credentials	Rick Corbett

Old Business Dan Tatum, President

New Business Dan Tatum, President

Good of the Order Dan Tatum, Awards

Resolutions Vance Rhodes, PSP

Retiring of Colors Marietta Lodge #1657

Benediction Cyndi Russell, Chaplain

Adjournment Dan Tatum, President

Shoot Off immediately following

GEORGIA ELKS AIDMORE AUXILIARY SPRING MEETING, CARTERSVILLE, GA February 28 - March 1, 2025

Friday, February 28, 2025
All Meetings at Home 2 Suites

10:00 - 4:00	Registration Desk Open
11:00	Past State Presidents Luncheon Maine Street Costal Cusine 24 W. Main Street Cartersville, Georgia
1:30	Executive Board Meeting
2:00	Auxiliary Past State Presidents Mtg.
2:30 - 3:00	Horseshoe Registration
3:00	Horseshoes @ Cartersville Lodge
5:00 - 7:00	Meet/Greet Pres. Elect Candidates Cartersville Lodge
7:00	Dinner @ Cartersville Lodge

Saturday, March 1, 2025

8:00 - 8:45	Credentials Desk Open
9:00-11:30	General Business Meeting
11:00 - 1:30	Lunch on your own
2:00	GEA Aidmore Presentation Hilton Garden Inn
6:00 - 7:00	Cocktail Hour @ Savoy Car Museum
7:00	Banquet @ Savoy Car Museum 3 Savoy Lane Cartersville, Georgia

GEA Spring Banquet Savoy Automobile Museum 3 Savoy Lane Cartersville, Georgia 30120

7:00 Banquet Dinner (*Dress: Men, Coat & Tie,
Ladies Dressy*)

Call to Order	Dan Tatum, President
Invocation	Cyndi Russell, Chaplain
Introductions	Dan Tatum, President

Head Table

from the right

Past Grand Tiler, Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, Bruce
Hayden & wife Lisa

Past Grand Exalted Ruler & State Sponsor Mike Smith & wife
Sandra

Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas A. Schiefer & First Lady Julia

from the left

Tim Whalen, PSP, Past Grand Esquire, GEA Sec./Treas.

Chaplain Cyndi Russell & husband Brian, PDDGER

Elks Aidmore Auxiliary State President Barbara Burnett

State President Elect Larry Pope & wife Ana

District Deputies

NE Ed Whitcomb
NW Bethany Jackson
South Brenda Sailors

Vice Presidents

NE Stacey Simmons
NW Jonathan Edwards
South Charles Smith

State President Elects and VPAL

Florida VPAL	Mike Chandler (Caroline)
Mississippi President Elect	Bob Daniel (Jean)
Alabama President Elect	Gary Johnson (Jackie)

Past State Presidents please rise

Auxiliary Introductions	Barbara Burnett Auxiliary President
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Break for Dinner

After Dinner

Introduction of Special Deputy	Dan Tatum, Pres.
Introduction of State Sponsor	Bruce Hayden, SDGER
Introduction of Grand Exalted Ruler	Mike Smith, PGER
Grand Exalted Ruler Remarks	Douglas A. Schiefer, GER
State Sponsor Remarks	Mike Smith, PGER
GEA President Remarks	Dan Tatum, Pres.
Auxiliary President Remarks	Barbara Burnett, Aux.
Eleven O'clock Toast	Junior Roberson, PSP
Benediction	Cyndi Russell, Chaplain
Adjournment	Dan Tatum, Pres.

News From Aidmore



**Message from
Aidmore CEO
Dr. Vickey Hale**

Happy New Year!

As we bid farewell to another year, I am filled with a profound sense of hope and gratitude. At Elks Aidmore, our mission has always been to transform lives, one child at a time. As the CEO, I have the privilege of witnessing firsthand the resilience and strength of the children and families we serve. Each success story, no matter how small, serves as a testament to the power of compassion, commitment, and community.

This past year, we have continued to stand in the gap for children in foster care, providing them with a safe space to heal, grow, and thrive. Through our dedicated team and your unwavering support, we have offered not just shelter but hope, not just services but opportunities, not just care but a path to a brighter future. Together, we have built bridges of possibility for those who need it most.

A special thank you to the Elks Aidmore Auxiliaries, Elks Lodges, Aidmore Staff, and countless community supporters who made this Christmas a phenomenal experience for the children and young adults in our care.

As we move into the new year, we are inspired by the countless possibilities ahead. We know the challenges are great, but so too is our resolve. In 2025, we will expand our programs, deepen our impact, and explore innovative ways to meet the unique needs of the children and families we serve. We are committed to ensuring that every child who comes through our doors feels seen, valued, and empowered to reach their full potential.

We do not undertake the journey of transforming lives alone. It is a collective effort, a partnership between our staff, supporters, volunteers, and the wider community. Your generosity and belief in our mission fuel our work. For this, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

As we embrace the opportunities of the new year, I invite you to continue walking alongside us. Whether it's through volunteering, advocating, or donating, your involvement makes all the difference. Together, we can create a legacy of love, hope, and transformation—one child, one day at a time.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and prosperous New Year. Here's to 2025 and all the lives we will touch together.

With hope and gratitude
Dr. Vickey Hale
CEO, Elks Aidmore

**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD MAKE
A GREAT FOSTER OR RESPITE PARENT?**



Contact *Elks* today:
AIDMORE, INC.
770-483-3535

Golf Fore Kids Tournament



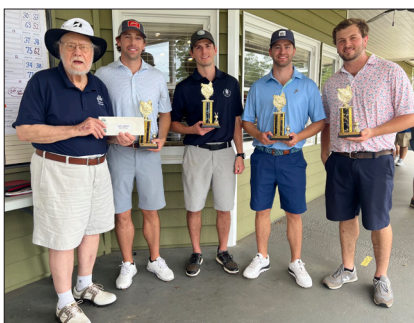
Low Net 1st place, Team Chiefs
(not in order) Steve Petrie, Chris Mason,
Kirk Mason & Honus Wagner with far left,
Golf Chair, John Helgesen, PSP



Low Net 2nd place, Team Browns
(not in order) Anthony Akers, Jake Strength,
Whitey Payton & Lewis Moore with far left,
Golf Chair, John Helgesen, PSP



Low Net 3rd place, Team
Buccaneers (Barry Bishop,
Steve Bishop, Steven Bishop
& Mike Shoemaker) (I guess
the Buccaneer that showed up
gets the prize) left Golf Chair,
John Helgesen, PSP



Low Gross 1st place, Team Broncos
(not in order) Mark Kercher, Holland
Kercher, Andrew Ruppert & Troy
Noonan with Golf Chair, far left, John
Helgesen, PSP



Low Gross 2nd place, Team Ravens,
(not in order) Chris, Ben,
Jordan & Derek with Golf Chair,
far left, John Helgesen, PSP



Low Gross 3rd place, Team
Bengals (not in order) Ted
Sexton, Dan Ruppert, Chuck
Caricote & Jeff Betterton
with far left, Golf Chair, John
Helgesen, PSP



There was also winners for (Not In Order) Close Up #12 (Chris Mason), Close Up #14 (Andrew Ruppert), Long Drive #17 (Steven Bishop) & Close Up #3 (Chris Gaines) Golf Chair John Helgesen, PSP gave out the prizes (4th over, white hat)

GEA State President, Dan
Tatum with Bill Lewis, PSP



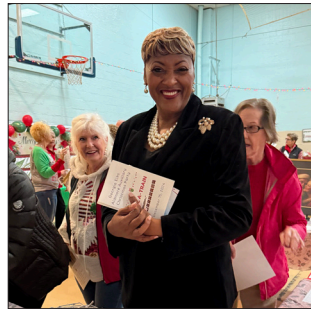
Lake Oconee Lodge #2849 grilled hamburgers & hotdogs. Pictured to the left, L-R front Pat Lazenby, Kat Whitcomb, Lynda Lewis, Bill Lewis, PSP and back Mary Zachary, Brad Hatch & Ted Hatch. Pictured center, Pat Lazenby, Kat Whitcomb, Mary Zachary and Cheryl Abbott and Pictured right, John White, Scott Pitocchelli and Bill Lewis, PSP



More from Golf Fore Kids - Above, Miriam Wheeler waits for the ball drop. Second over Charlie Watson & Marilyn Helgesen, Second from right are Harriet Watson, PSP Aux. and Peggy Rhodes, PSP Aux. and far right are Beth & Bob Colie, PSP, and their Grandson Wesley Craig.

Christmas at Aidmore

On Sunday, December 15, The Aidmore Christmas Party was held at Aidmore in the Gym that had been decorated the previous day by some of the Ladies Auxiliary members and the girls that live at Aidmore. A big welcome was given by Aidmore CEO Dr. Vickey Hale and the Auxiliary State President Barbara Burnett. The girls put on a beautiful play depicting the Christmas Story and a wonderful African Drum performance directed by Chuck Cogliandro. Mr. & Mrs. Santa (aka Jessie Williams & Dixie Spiker) came for a visit and the Ladies Auxiliaries from around the State gave out their gifts to the girls. The party ended with lunch & visiting with friends.



Aidmore Honors & Memorials

HONOR AND 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 September 1, 2024 to January 6, 2025.

MEMORIALS

ED ABEL

Abe and Teresa Wilkinson

Wayne Johnson

Charlie and Sarah Hendricks

Mike and Linda Bailey

BEACHER "BEACH" CARMANY, JR.

Dwaine Lovingood

ALAN DAWSON

Kermit Dawson

M&P Remodeling, LLC

Jim and Kathy Wade

Daniel and Carolyn Yarbrough

Harold and Ticia Jordon

Currahee Realty LLC

Karbin & Anthony Croft

Henry Hayes Company

C&K Wright Enterprises Inc.

Jon West & associates Inc.

JACK DAVIS

Mike and Linda Bailey

Stan and Margie Jones

MEMORIALS CONTINUED

PAT HAMILTON

Dwaine Lovingood

LINDA LAW

Valdosta Elks Auxiliary

DANNY REARDON

Stan and Margie Jones

ANN C. THOMPSON

Stan and Margie Jones

CAROLYN THOMPSON

Brent Richards

CHARLENE WESTBERRY

Wayne and Charlotte Johnson

Mike and Linda Bailey

Stan and Margie Jones

Union City Auxiliary

Pat Craven

Charlie and Sarah Hendricks

GA Past State Presidents Association

Dwaine Lovingood

John and Petite Yost

Abe and Teresa Wilkinson

EIGHT FOR AIDMORE

Albany Auxiliary

Gary Rauch

Ron Anderson

Dannie Anderson

In Memoriam, Douglas Theron Patterson, PSP



Douglas Theron Patterson, 92 of Social Circle, Georgia, passed away on Tuesday, December 31, 2024. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia to the late Edgar Theron and Myrtle (Phillips) Patterson. Douglas was a loving husband, father, PawPaw, brother, and friend to many.

Doug, as his friends called him, was an avid golfer and spent countless hours "on the green", enjoying the sport he loved. A passionate Christmas enthusiast, Doug celebrated the spirit of the season year round. His contributions to his community included active membership in the Decatur Elks Lodge #1602, where he held many leadership positions at the local, state and national levels. Additionally, he proudly served in the United States Coast Guard as a radio operator during the Korean Conflict.

Doug was deeply loved by his family, including his children, Greg (Terri) Patterson, Jeff (Gigi) Patterson and Robin Hill; his grandchildren, Eryn Marciano, Anna Patterson, Doug Patterson, Lindsay Patterson, Chandler (Kayla) Patterson, Daniel Hill and Gregory Hill; his great grandchildren, Madalyn, Mason, John Roberts, Theron, Aubree, Reed, Dylan, Maddox, Memphis, and Eldora Mae; his niece, Cynthia Stack; his nephew Michael Patterson; as well as many loving friends. He also adored his furry companion Lucky, who was a treasured part of his life.

Douglas "Doug" Theron Patterson
Past State President
Georgia Elks
Association

Doug's memory will forever be cherished by all who knew him. His family takes comfort in knowing his legacy will live on in the hearts of those who loved him. Funeral services were held on Saturday, January 4th, 2025.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made in Douglas' memory to the ELKS Aidmore Golf Tournament at <https://elksaidmore.com>. Doug will be greatly missed, and his memory will remain in the hearts of all who were blessed to know him.

(Taken from Doug's obituary at the Wheeler Funeral home site)





Cyndi Russell
864-247-5768

cyndilay@yahoo.com
clayrussell@scfederal.org
Facebook
Cyndi Lay-Russell

DRUG AWARENESS: We are heading into a new year and I look forward to the Spring meeting. The Drug Awareness program has really shown out this year, I have several lodges participate in events and handing out literature to our communities. Savannah just used a Grand Lodge grant to have a trailer rewrapped and it looks amazing!! Great job to Al and Gary who worked for months to get this accomplished. The DAP coloring/essay and video contest are due so please send those to me ASAP to be judged prior to the Spring Meeting in Cartersville. I will present the winner that weekend with a check and certificate.

With the new year just ahead I hope you are planning the events for the year. I know July, August and October are booming but consider attending spring flings and end of the year events at school. Baseball games, basketball games and the hoop shoot, are all fantastic places to set up a table and talk to the spectators about all that the ELKS are doing. And if you have an Elroy costume...put it on because I developed a large fan base during Toccoa's Christmas Parade. GET OUT, BE PRESENT AND BE LOUD. WE ARE THE ELKS!!

Have a blessed New Year

ACTIVITIES: Happy New Year,

The deadline for the lodge activity contest and newsletter contest are all fast approaching. I will have awards to give out at the spring meeting for the lodges that submit the forms to me. If you are unable to locate the packages that were handed out during the DD meeting, they can be found on the GAELKS website., Lynda and Beth do an excellent job of keeping it updated with all the vital forms. Please start filling out the Contest A form, these have dates that must be sent to the ER, Secretary, DDGER, State Lodge

Chair and then to the Grand Lodge. We have had some top 10 finalist for this contest in past years and I know we have all worked hard and could get a GA Lodge in the top 3 if we just fill those out and send them in. If you have questions or concerns call me, email, or text me anytime. I try to be quick to respond and if I don't have the answer, Ill ask someone until I do.

Love to all
See you in Cartersville
Cyndi Russell

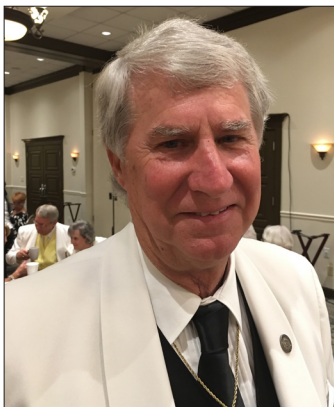
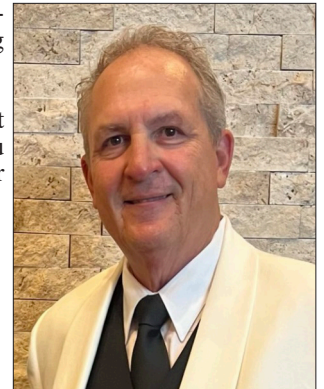
By the time you receive this publication, our State Hoop Shoot may have been completed and we are preparing for the Regional Hoop Shoot in Valdosta on March 15th . A full report will be given at the Spring Meeting. I want to thank all of the Lodges and volunteers that participated in our program this past year.

The Hoop Shoot program not only helps our children develop competitive skills that they will use the rest of their lives, it also develops better relations in your community. Our committee stands ready to assist you should your Lodge want to hold a Hoop Shoot next year. Please contact your District Director or myself for assistance.

Fraternally
Vance



Vance Rhodes, PSP
Hoop Shoot
Chairman



Stan Jones, PSP
Scholarship
Chairman

Most Valuable Student and Legacy Scholarships

Both contests are underway at this point in time. Judging has been completed on both the Lodge and District level. State judging will commence on Feb. 4, 2025 and be completed by Feb. 24, 2025. There are 500 scholarships Awarded by ENF, 480 \$4000.00 Awards and 20 \$30,000.00 Awards. For a grand total of \$2,520,000 which will be Awarded to 500 deserving High School Seniors to help further their education.

The Legacy Awards are for College bound High School seniors of children and grandchildren of Elks. For the child to be eligible the parent or grand parent must have joined the Elks by April 1, 2022. Ga. is allotted 3 \$4000 Scholarships. The applications can be found at enf.elks.org/leg These applications are due Feb. 3, 2025.

Emergency Educational Grants are undergraduate financial assistance for children of deceased or totally disabled Elks in the form of renewable, one year grants of up to \$5000. Applications are accepted between May 1 and December 31 of the academic year for which assistance is desired. For an application contact ENF Scholarship office at 773-755-4732 or scholarship@elks.org

Our three District chairs are Cyndi Russell NE District, Jack McPhillips NW District, and Stan Jones Southern District. Please contact us if we can be assistance to you or your Lodge.



Ga Elks had a good year with the Soccer Shoot program. We had 7 (seven) Lodges that participated and 1 (one) that gave valiant effort (thanks Hurricane Helene). But there is still plenty of room for improvement to build this great youth program. As the Regional Shoot is scheduled to be held the weekend of January 18th-19th, Georgia is scheduled to have a full slate of contestants (5 girls & 5 boys). Results of this will be reported at the spring meeting in Cartersville.

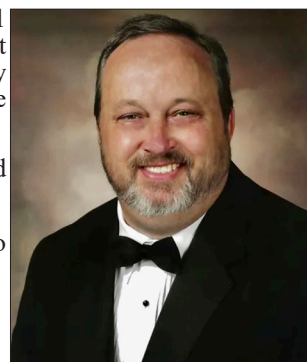
A BIG THANKS goes out to Calhoun, Cartersville, Dalton, LaFayette, Marietta, Toccoa, Lake Oconee, and Valdosta for participating this year.

If any other Lodge would like to participate in the upcoming year, please contact me and I would be glad to help get the Soccer Shoot started in your area.

Cell 706-847-7122 Email willierobersonjr@gmail.com

Remember - SOCCER IT'S A KICK!

**Junior Roberson, PSP
Soccer Chairman**



Elroy greets some young fans at the NW District Soccer Shoot.



Elroy poses with the children from the Northwest District Soccer Shoot. On the far right are Junior Roberson, PSP, State Soccer Chair and Dan Tatum, GEA President.



L-R: Dan Tatum, GEA President, Bethany Jackson, DDGER, Elroy and Junior Roberson, PSP, State Soccer Chair

Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America (WAA) is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit that honors veterans, active military, & their families by placing wreaths on veterans' graves in December each year.

The organization was founded in 2007 by wreath producer Morrill Worcester, who began the tradition of wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery in 1992. Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, WAA's mission to Remember the Fallen, Honor those who Serve and Teach the next generation the value of Freedom, is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at more than 4600 locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad. Anyone who wants to offer a small gesture of gratitude for the freedoms Americans enjoy can volunteer at a wreath laying ceremony to assist in saying veteran names aloud and thanking them for their service.

Wreaths Across America believes the tradition represents a living memorial that honors veterans, active-duty military and their families. When each wreath is placed, the service member's name is said out loud, ensuring their memory lives on.

Each year since 2008, Congress proclaims a Saturday in December as National Wreaths Across America Day. In 2025 that will take place on December 13, 2025. On that day, more than 2 million Veterans' Wreaths will be placed across Local, National and Military Cemeteries as well as Veterans's Memorials and historic sites.

At each of those sites, a Wreaths Across America Location Coordinator works throughout the year with cemetery contact and local governments to organize and promote the ceremony, coordinate wreath delivery and manage the placement of wreaths. In addition to location coordinators, most Wreaths Across America locations rely on the assistance of community members, local businesses and civic groups and organizations to place wreaths on the day of the event. Typically more than a third of the volunteers across the country are children, and all participants are welcome to play a part.

We must teach our children that freedom is not free. As President Ronald Reagan said "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend out sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

A couple of our Elk Lodges, that I know of, participated in Wreaths Across America this past December. I encourage your lodge to get involved with this wonderful program. It is a beautiful ceremony and to look out at the wreaths that have been placed is truly a awe inspiring scene. One of Lake Oconee Lodge's participants, Kevin Baker, is featured on the cover of the February Ga Elks News. Lake Oconee bought over 500 wreaths this year and placed them at the Greensboro City Cemetery, the National Veterans Cemetery in Milledgeville and also held a ceremony at our own lodge's Veterans Memorial. The Toccoa Elks Lodge also participated this year and videoed their ceremony where you can see it on FB. If your lodge gets involved this next year, make sure to send photos of your involvement to gaelksnews@gmail.com. Lynda Lewis, Editor Ga Elks News

Article taken from the Wreaths Across America website <https://www.wreathsassamerica.org>



News From Lodges Around The State



Albany Lodge # 713 took part in the Leesburg Christmas Parade by pulling the Drug Awareness trailer. They handed out 1300 drug awareness bags during the day. Left photo L-R: Bob Reardon, Margie Jones, Tory Martin, Debbie Dougherty, Tim Nelson, Wally Binns, Stan Jones, PSP and Paul Davis. The right photo front to back: Bob Reardon, Paul Davis, Debbie Dougherty, (Stan Jones, PSP in back), Margie Jones, Tim Nelson, Wally Binns and Tory Martin



Brunswick Lodge #691 - On Halloween, DAP coordinator Doug Einsel arranged to participate in the downtown Trunk and Treat. Approximately 1800 children and adults roamed the streets collecting candy. Besides candy, lodge members distributed a range of Drug Awareness materials to the youth and their parents.

Joelene Einsel decorated the Einsel vehicle. The following lodge members assisted in the evenings activities. Rochelle Hamilton, Pug Fernandes, Michael Hitt, Marvin Reese, Gary & Ronda Harper. Hoop Shoot organizer, Kevin Weese distributed information and encouraged local youth to participate in the upcoming lodge's Hoop Shoot scheduled for December 14th.

Pictured right L-R: Brenda Sailors, DDGER, Jane Santee and Stanley Santee, PSP.





On November 8th the **Brunswick Elks Lodge #691** recognized and thanked their members who are Veterans and gave thanks to those member Veterans who are no longer with them. The Lodge provided a free meal to their Veterans. Pictured above are Lodge Veterans in attendance. Several members and guests attended to recognize Lodge Veterans at the dinner.

Pictured are **Brunswick Lodge #691's** ER RJ Fernandes with Jim Conine, an Air Borne Veteran who often portrays Abraham Lincoln at local events.



Above & above middle row, in cooperation with the Glynn County Recreation Department, the **Brunswick Elks Lodge #691** held its annual Hoop Shoot on December 14th. Turn-out was low, primarily due to competing activities in the county that day. The winners of the boys' competition were: Age group 8- 9-year-olds, 1st place Pierce Frank (light blue shirt) and 2nd Place Holden Cravey (light green shirt). In the 10-11 age group were: 1st Place Hudson Moore (dark blue shirt), 2nd Place Eli Stepoway (grey shirt) and 3rd Place Dylan Southard (Red pants). No girls competed in the allotted schedule time. Next year's competition will take place in January, as to not compete with holiday activities. Mr. and Mrs. Santa showed up. Elks Officer Kevin Weese organized the event with the county recreation department.

Calhoun Lodge #1883 used part of the Gratitude Grant to donate \$1,060 to the Boys & Girls Club of Gordon County.



Cartersville Elks Lodge #1969 sponsored 17 families from the Advocates for Children, Hope in Your Home and SKORE youth accountability programs. The Lodge hosted Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 14th where families ate and got a stuffed animal from Santa and gifts from each families' wish list. While they ate, the Elks "elves" snuck gifts into family trucks or delivered them to their homes when cars were not large enough. The volunteers went above and beyond and provided a glowing example of the Elks principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity.



Cartersville Elks Lodge #1969 pulled off 2 Christmas events in less than 24 hours! First, members hosted 13 Elks Aidmore foster families from NW Georgia and and Second, members hosted families from the community. This could not have been accomplished without our members and friends. Thank you for making this Christmas a Christmas to remember for these families.



Covington Elks Lodge #1806 hosted Veterans for several games of bingo and a delicious lunch. Covington lodge members are so proud of their veterans. They send coupons every month to the U.S. Air Force Base in Japan for the soldiers to use on the base.



Dalton Elks Lodge #1267 had a great time at the Dalton Festival promoting the Elks Hoop Shoot Program. Pictured in the left photo are Vance Rhodes, PSP & State Hoop Shoot Chair, and Peggy Rhodes, PSP Aux. The photo on the right L-R: Pam Parker, Peggy Rhodes, PSP Aux. & Kim Thompson.

Covington Lodge #1806 Elks and Elkadettes bought gifts for 3 needy children in their community. Pictured is Miriam Wheeler with the gifts.



Dalton Elks Lodge #1267 had a great night to be "buddies" at the Miracle Field. They even got to see some Northern Lights. L-R front row: Amber Henderson, Brenda Silva, Michelle Langham & Morgan Knick L-R back row: Darren Pierce (now sheriff) and Junior Roberson, PSP



Douglas Elks Lodge #1286 gathered gifts and food items to donate to needy families at Christmas with their "Christmas Basket Delivery" Program. Pictured to the left some of the boxes and the 2 immediately above are members making deliveries.





Douglas Lodge #1286 donated books collected at their Luau. Pictured L-R: Stanley Santee, PSP, Lavern Altman, Charles Smith, S VP, Nikki Thompson & Brenda Sailors, DDGER



Eatonton Lodge #2549, on October 25th, brought joy to some special students by distributing toys and candy at the Putnam County Recreation Center. The Friendly Fright Fest, hosted by Putnam County's Special Programs Department, provided a safe and sensory-friendly environment for students with disabilities to enjoy the fall festivities. Thank you to everyone who participated from #2549.



Eatonton Lodge #2549, had a wonderful night hosting a catfish dinner for the Veterans. Members of the Ga War Veterans Home enjoyed catfish, hushpuppies, coleslaw, french fries and assorted desserts. Left photo, a few members from the Putnam County High School choir started the dinner with a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem.



Eatonton Lodge #2549 had a Paint and Sip at the Lodge for the 2nd time. Subject matter was Christmas themed. They painted wooden planks while enjoying pizza, wings, dessert and a drink. Everyone did a wonderful job with their paintings.



Elberton-Athens Lodge #1100 received a Grand Lodge Citation of Merit Certificate. Pictured are left, District Deputy Ed Whitcomb presenting the certificate to ER Christopher Dyal.



Griffin Lodge #1207 made a \$6,000 donation to the Five Loaves & 2 Fish Food Pantry for needy citizens. L-R: David Hicks, Steve Trawick (Food Pantry Administrator) and Tim Whalen, PSP



LaFayette Lodge #2018 honored Veterans from their Lodge and community with a Veteran's Day Dinner. 61 meals were served, they sang Happy Birthday to one Veteran, who is also a member, and gave each Veteran a ticket for a chance to win a handmade wooden flag plaque. The winner was so excited and said he knew exactly where he will hang it. There was also a speaker from the LaFayette American Legion.



LaFayette Lodge #2018 stuffed bags & passed out Drug Awareness material & candy to the community at "Scare on the Square".



LaGrange Lodge #1084 on December 13th held a Special needs Children's Christmas party where they served lunch and Santa handed out gifts and stockings to 43 Troup County Middle School Special Needs students.



LaGrange Lodge #1084 decorated the Elk's tree on the square for Circles of Troup County fighting against poverty in the county.



Lake Oconee Lodge #2849 and Georgia SCI presented a Wounded Veteran Celebration “CAST and BLAST” in October. The Veterans were in a parade that was led by the Ga Patriots Riders that went down Lake Oconee Parkway with local folks on the sides of the road waving flags as they passed. The Veterans arrived at the lodge and were ushered in by the Ga Patriot Riders. The lodge furnished a lunch and the speaker was Army Master Sergeant Mike Reynolds. The Veterans were taken fishing, target shooting and ended the weekend with a riverboat ride around Lake Oconee with a catered dinner. Special thanks to Elk and SCI member James Lakeman for coordinating this event and to Bill Lewis, PSP for his helping coordinate things at the lodge. Pictured above left are the Ga Patriot Riders ushering in the Veterans after arrival at the lodge and photo right are the veterans having lunch at the lodge.



Lake Oconee Lodge #2849 took part in Wreaths Across America in December and purchased 500 wreaths to be placed at the National Veterans Cemetery in Milledgeville, Greensboro City Cemetery and at the Lodge's own Veterans Wall.

Far left, at the program at the Greensboro City Cemetery, up on top of a hill, Dan Jones & Warren Weatherford played echo taps and near left, one of the boy scouts from Troop 30 is laying a wreath at one of the graves of the 45 unknown confederate soldiers buried at the cemetery.



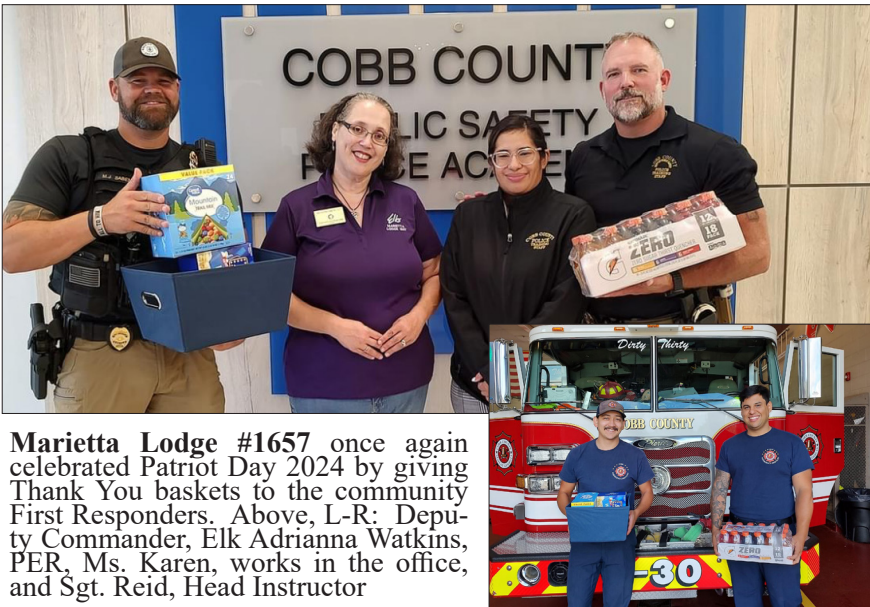
Above and inset photo, **Lake Oconee Lodge #2849** went to the Gerogia War Veterans home in November for a Christmas decorating party. Lodge members treated the veterans to pizza and donuts while members decorated the recreation room.



Lake Oconee Lodge #2849 took part in the Halloween candy give away at the Greene Co. Rec. center. The Lodge not only gave away over 2000 pieces of candy but Drug Awareness Chair, Bill Wright, gave out Drug Awareness materials and Soccer Chair, Thomas Smith encouraged kids to come to the Soccer Shoot. L-R: Drug Awareness Mascot Harkin, Bill Wright, Heather Smith, Thomas Smith, Bill Lewis, PSP & Stanley Knox



Lake Oconee Lodge #2849 made donations totaling \$10,500 to 5 different charities during Nov. Pictured Greene Co. Christmas Stocking Fund L-R: Bob Colie, PSP, Beth Thomas and Targie Folds (both with the stocking fund) and Elk Barry Bishop. Donations also went to Eatonton Service League for Christmas toys, Hancock Helping Hands Food Bank, Pets Love Vets and Madison Morgan Co. Food Pantry.



Marietta Lodge #1657 once again celebrated Patriot Day 2024 by giving Thank You baskets to the community First Responders. Above, L-R: Deputy Commander, Elk Adrianna Watkins, PER, Ms. Karen, works in the office, and Sgt. Reid, Head Instructor



Marietta Lodge #1657 used the Gratitude Grant to deliver School Break food boxes for families identified by the Hollydale Elementary School counselor. Pictured L-R: Nita Knighton, PSP, counselor Karen Scarver and Adrianna Watkins, PER



Marietta Lodge #1657 joined the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce to celebrate Cobb County's Public Safety Appreciation Week in October. Marietta volunteered to visit and deliver snacks to both the Cobb County Sheriff's Office and the Fire and Emergency Services HQ. Pictured below, L-R: PER Adrianna Watkins, Nita Knighton, PSP, Sheriff Craig Owens, State Pres. Dan Tatum, Chief Deputy Sheriff Rhonda Anderson & Col. David Gallmon



Pictured above L-R: Fire Chief William "Bill" Johnson, Chief Investigator Leon Reese, State Pres. Dan Tatum, Nita Knighton, PSP, Adrianna Watkins, PER and District Chief Justin Green.



Savannah Lodge #183 presented a tribute to all present for their sacrifices and devotion to the standards of duty and courage. Naval Station Norfolk is the world's largest naval station, supporting 75 ships and 134 aircraft alongside 14 piers and 11 aircraft hangers. The base houses the largest concentration of U.S. Navy forces. Air Operations conducts an average of 275 flights per day or one every six minutes. It is the hub for Navy logistics going to the European and Central Command theaters of operations and to the Caribbean. Commanders Sean Edwards and Tabitha Edwards of the Naval Station were the guests of honor at Savannah's Veterans Day Program.



Toccoa Elks Lodge #1820 participated in Wreaths Across America in December. Thank you to all the Elks who donated to purchase the Wreaths and placed Wreaths on this day. Also special thanks to VFW color Guard, Stephen's Co. HS JROTC, the Toccoa Record, American Legion and David Roberts. Most of all thank you to our Veterans! God Bless the American Soldier! Pictured is Stacey Simmons, NE VP, leading the Wreaths Across America Program. Go to Facebook and see this program that was recorded live that day.



Toccoa Elks Lodge #1820 took gifts to the Veterans at Pruitt, Clary & Wilkinson Centers. Gifts were given by Toccoa Elks Lodge & Elks Auxiliary. Pictured are Stephanie West, Aux. NE VP on the left and Vicky Dickerson on the right.



Toccoa Elks Lodge #1820 had a blast in the Toccoa Christmas Parade. Elroy, the Drug Awareness Mascot joined in the fun. Look for Elroy in future appearances in the community.



Toccoa Elks Lodge #1820 completed their Toys for Tots drive and they came to pick up early. A lot of Elks and Auxiliary once again made this drive a success! Pictured is Missy Simmons with the toys and driver.



Toccoa Elks Lodge #1820 received a donation from Drug Free Stephens for their Drug Awareness Program for \$2500. It will go toward the ongoing youth education and drug awareness in the community. Pictured with Cyndi Russell is Tanesha Cobb with Drug Free Stephens on the left of Cyndi..



Union City Lodge #1617 donated bookbags to Newnan Crossing Elementary School for their Abby's Angel Foundation Closet. Helping Sandy Fambro (center) deliver the bags to school Counselor Kelly Cashlon, far left is International Elite Teen Cora Betts on the right.



Union City Lodge #1617 donated Drug Awareness coloring books and crayons to Heard County Elementary School. Far right is Sandy Fambro and helping her is Cora Betts, United International Elite Teen on the far left.



Union City Lodge #1617 took part in the annual Tyrone Founders Day celebration by taking part in the parade and setting up a display booth afterward to share Elksdom with the community. Looks like Elroy was the star of the show!



Valdosta Elks Lodge #728 hosted its annual Christmas Basket Program in December. It is one of the Lodge's largest community projects. The lodge has fundraising projects throughout the year to provide necessary funds to help. The lodge feeds dinner to the attendees and Santa makes a visit in a Fire Truck and distributes presents to the children. The lodge also gives each family a box of groceries that will last through the holiday season.



**Past Grand Esquire
PSP Tim Whalen's
Minutes**

Georgia Elks Association Fall Meeting, October 26, 2024, Albany Elks Lodge #713

The fall meeting of the Georgia Elks Association was called to order by President Dan Tatum at 1:00 o'clock P. M. on Saturday, October 26th, 2024. The Colors were presented by the Marietta Elks Lodge #1657, the Pledge to the Flag led by President Elect Larry Pope & the Invocation was given by Chaplain Cyndi Russell.

President Tatum introduced the head table, state officers, Grand Lodge officers & Past State Presidents. He then called on Albany Lodge #713 Exalted Ruler Debbie Dougherty for welcoming remarks. President Tatum called on Secretary Tim Whalen for officers' roll call & roll call of the Lodges. Officers present were Dan Tatum, Larry Pope, Stacey Simmons, Tim Whalen, Cliff Arden, Cyndi Russell, Brenda Sailors, Vance Rhodes & Lynda Lewis. Absent were Johnathon Edwards, Charles Smith & Larry Denny. Lodges present were Atlanta-Northlake, Calhoun, Cartersville, Dalton, Griffin, LaFayette, LaGrange, Marietta, Covington, Eatonton, Lake Oconee, Toccoa, Albany, Brunswick, Douglas, Savannah, Tifton & Valdosta. Absent were Union City, Augusta, Elberton-Athens & Jesup. A motion was made by Piker Penn to dispense with the reading of the minutes from our Annual meeting, seconded by Stanley Santee. The motion passed.

Sickness & Distress

Linda Bailey, Roy Spiker, Bruce Hayden, Mike Johnson & Theresa Parker.

President Tatum called on Secretary Whalen for the introduction of our state sponsor & Past National President, Mike Smith. Delinquency in our membership is a major problem. Georgia ranks as the 8th worst state in the nation in this category. Now is the time to grind & recoup our losses. The Douglas, Albany, Valdosta, Tifton, Dalton, Calhoun & Lake Oconee are doing well. Nationally, the Elks are not looking good for a gain in membership at this time. Contact your delinquent members to pay up. E. N. F. grants are available to your Lodges. Georgia stands at \$5.82 per capita now, 20th in the Nation. Insurance remains a hot topic for the Lodges. Liquor liability is getting better. Mike has Endorsed Candidate pins for the upcoming Grand Lodge convention to be held in Kansas City. Brian Klatt is the Endorsed Candidate to become Grand Exalted Ruler.

Union City & LaFayette Lodges are suffering, while Albany, Valdosta, Tifton, Dalton, Calhoun & Lake Oconee are doing well. Nationally, the Elks are not looking good for a gain in membership at this time. Contact your delinquent members to pay up. E. N. F. grants are available to your Lodges. Georgia stands at \$5.82 per capita now, 20th in the Nation. Insurance remains a hot topic for the Lodges. Liquor liability is getting better. Mike has Endorsed Candidate pins for the upcoming Grand Lodge convention to be held in Kansas City. Brian Klatt is the Endorsed Candidate to become Grand Exalted Ruler.

Reports

President Tatum also stressed membership saying we are trying to improve. Recruit & retain new members. Make telephone calls to reinforce recruitment. Money is available for Lodges who have recently suffered from Hurricane Helene. Contact Dan Tatum, Cliff Arden or Tim Whalen if you need assistance.

Charity Board Chair Nita Knighton reported the Nursing Scholarship program as presented by Stan Jones was approved by the Board. Stan moved for adoption by the Association, seconded by Bill Lewis. The motion was approved.

Association Board Chair Nita Knighton reported the Beast & Good Fortune Shoot-Off raffles have been approved for 2025.

Aidmore President Stanley Santee said that the 2024 Aidmore Awards will be presented tonight at the banquet. Contributions to Aidmore will be accepted at that time.

Stacey Simmons, NE Vice President, made his visit report.

Our District Deputies, G. E. R., Ed Whitcomb, Brenda Sailors & Bethany Jackson, made their visitation reports.

Committee Reports

- Membership; Steve Petrie: membership recruitment never ends. Elks are “not a club, but a Lodge”. Sponsor “membership days” to highlight what Elks do. Look for members in the 40-55 age group.
- Audit; Jane Santee: we are in the 7th month of our Lodge year; make sure you are doing the required Lodge audits.
- Leadership Academy; Jane Santee: the 2025 Academy will be at the Covington Lodge on April 4 & 5. Please plan to attend.
- Business Practices; Larry Pope: keep accurate records & run your Lodge as a business. Contact the committee if you need help.
- Conventions; Tim Whalen: The spring 2025 meeting will be held in Cartersville, Georgia on February 27th-March 1st. Our Grand Exalted Ruler, as well as visiting Presidents Elects from Alabama, Florida & Mississippi, will be in attendance. Meetings will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn & the Home2 Suites. The Saturday banquet will be held at the Savoy Automobile Museum.
- Elks National Foundation; Brian Russell: Georgia has 46 members of the E. N. F. Fidelity Club. We currently have 8 Lodges who have not met the G. E. R.s per capita goal. The E. N. F. Golf Tournament will be held at the Apple Mountain Golf Course on May 17th, 2025, at a cost of \$110.00 per player. Contact Brian for more information.
- Grants; Larry Pope: \$141,000 has been distributed so far this year. The money is available so please apply. Let's not leave money on the table.
- Hoop-Shoot; Vance Rhodes: 14 Lodges participated in the program last year. Information for this year's program has been distributed. This program helps children to grow emotionally & to mature; win or lose they all grow
- Scholarships; Stan Jones: Stan updated the membership on upcoming deadlines for scholarship applications. Our awards, per district, are \$1,500 for 1st place; \$1,250 for 2nd place; \$1,000 for 3rd place & \$750 for 4th place. Our state winners receive \$2,000 each.
- Drug Awareness; Cyndi Russell: brochures are available for the asking. Please contact Cyndi for any needs you may have.
- Lodge Activities; Cyndi Russell: Contest “A” is now open. Fill out these forms & submit. Also available are the Newsletter contest & the Lodge Activities contest.
- VAVS; Maureen Manning: Elks are a major contributor to the VA. Apply for grants to support these worthy projects.
- Soccer; Junior Roberson: NW contest to be held on November 3rd in Calhoun; NE contest to be held on November 17th @ Aidmore prior to the state contest. The state contest will be held on the Aidmore campus on November 17th at 2:00 PM. Soccer is growing & is now a national event on the Grand Lodge calendar.
- Good Fortune Shoot-Off; Bethany Jackson: tickets have been distributed to the Lodges for the 2025 contest.
- Ritual; Bruce Davis: Georgia finished 5th out of 10 teams in the 2024 contest in Austin, Texas. The Dalton Lodge team plans to compete in the 2025 contest in Kansas City.
- Beast raffle; Larry Pope: we will draw for the winning tickets immediately after this meeting.
- Disaster Relief; Cliff Arden: thanks for the contributions we have received so far for Hurricane Helene relief. Money is available to assist local Lodges who are in need of help.

Old Business

None

New Business

President Tatum presented Lynda Lewis with 5 Star Grand Lodge awards for Web Site design & the Georgia Elks News.

Credentials

NE District	17 attendees	4 PERs	15 delegates
NW District	19 attendees	9 PERs	17 delegates
South District	27 attendees	14 PERs	27 delegates
15 Lodges present			
59 delegates present			
63 attendees present			
1 state sponsor present			
Grand Total in attendance:	64		

President Tatum called on Vance Rhodes to deliver the Resolutions. After reading, Vance made a motion to approve, seconded by Gary Robinette. The Resolutions were approved.

There being no further business for the Association, President Tatum called on the Marietta Color Guard to retire the Colors. He then asked Chaplain Cyndi Russell to deliver the Benediction. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Whalen

Tim Whalen, Secretary
Georgia Elks Association

In Honor & Memory of All Georgia Elks Aidmore Auxiliary Past State Presidents

**Always Supporting
Georgia Elks Auxiliaries
and Elks Aidmore**

ALBANY LODGE #713

3213 Gillionville Road Albany, GA 31721
229-436-4896

Meetings 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 7:30 pm
Game Nights & Billiards
2nd & 4th Wednesdays
Meals Served On Those Evenings at 6:30 pm
Food Served Every Friday Night at 6:30 pm
Dinner & Dances On Special Occasions

BRUNSWICK LODGE #691

1509 Union Street, Brunswick, GA 31520
Phone (912) 264-1389

Meetings 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm
Bingo Every Tuesday Open at 5:00 pm
Games start at 6:30 pm
Play Pool & Games on Wed. Night
Open at 5:00 pm
FISH FRY every 3rd Friday 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Friday Night Dinners 6:30 pm
JOIN THE ELKS FOR "FIRST FRIDAY"
DOWNTOWN BRUNSWICK

CALHOUN LODGE #1883

Great Golf Course! 18 Holes
Elks Rates: \$24 weekly/\$29 weekends
Bingo Thursday night
doors open at 6:00 pm- start play at 7:00 pm
Ph (706) 629-4091 143 Craigtown Rd. NE
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 pm - 10:00 pm
Saturday Call for Schedule

COVINGTON 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!

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



**EATONTON
ELKS
LODGE
#2549**

MORE INFORMATION:
706-485-8606
135 INDUSTRIAL BLVD., EATONTON, GA 31024
P.O. BOX 4306, EATONTON, GA 31024
Meets 3rd Mondays @ 7:00 pm
Open:
Tues. @ 6:00 PM - Country Cooking
Thurs. @ 6:30 PM - Trivia
Fri. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM - Order from the Menu

Join our lodge! Email us at eatontonelks@gmail.com.

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 770-584-3586
Monthly dinners - Call for information
770-584-3586

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

LAKE OCONEE LODGE #2849

871 Harmony Road
Eatonton, GA 31024
706-991-1499 after 3:00 pm
1 mtg. month 3rd Thurs. Jan., June, July,
August, Nov. and in Dec. 1st Thurs.
2 mtg. month 1st & 3rd Thurs. Feb., Mar,
April, May, Sept. Oct.
Open: Mon - Fri 3:00 pm & Sat-Sun 1:00 pm
(Weekend hrs. subject to change)

MARIETTA LODGE #1657

**Proud Home of
Dan Tatum, GEA President
&
Nita R. Knighton, PSP**

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: Toccoaelks1820@gmail.com

UNION CITY LODGE # 1617

**Meetings:
2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month
770-969-1952**

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 & Thursday
Call for additional information

Mike Bailey, PSP

Dalton Lodge #1267

Beth & Bob Colie

**Proud Members of
Lake Oconee Lodge #2849 &
Georgia Elks Association**

**Dwaine Lovingood, PSP
Liebengut Farms**

P. O. Box 692
LaFayette, GA 30728-0692
423-838-1940

mollyn998@comcast.net



**Gary Robinette
Past State President**

*"Truth is the
foundation of all
honorable endeavors."*

**Member of Cartersville Elks
Lodge #1969**



Junior Roberson, PSP

Soccer Shoot Chairman
Georgia Elks Association

(706) 847-7122 willierobersonjr@gmail.com

Ronnie & Nita Knighton, PSP

**Proud Members of
Marietta Lodge #1657
&
Georgia Elks Association**



**Humber Ingram
President**

Beth Prestridge
478-288-6624

INGRAM PLANTATIONS

John Ingram
706-476-0122

Good Luck, Lady Trojans!
Taylor Prestridge & Jordon Prestridge
Class of 2021 Class of 2024



**TOMMY
WASHBURN**

**Proud Member of
Lake Oconee Elks Lodge #2849**



**Bill Lewis, PSP
&
Lynda Lewis**

Lake Oconee Lodge #2849

770-337-9010
blewiselk2849@gmail.com

**S. L. Jones Electric Co.
168 Spring Creek Rd.
Warwick, GA 31796**

Stan Jones

Cell: 229-435-0871
Warwick: 229-535-4261

sljones@planttel.net

Mike & Sandy Langan

**Proud Members of
Lake Oconee Elks Lodge #2849
and
Lake Oconee Ladies Auxiliary**

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**We Love Georgia Elks!
Cliff Arden, PDDGER
cliff@singnet.us**

**Judy Arden, South District PVP
Ga Elks Aidmore Auxiliary
judy@singnet.us**

Proud Members of Valdosta Lodge #728

A CHICKEN IN EVERY POT!



**Steve Petrie for
GA State President-Elect**



MEMBERSHIP!
Matters!

join.elks.org

Wally Binns
Albany Lodge #713
representing
the South District for the G.E.A.

Bethany Jackson
Cartersville Lodge #1969
representing
the Northwest District for the G.E.A.

Stacey Simmons
Toccoa Lodge #1820
representing
the Northeast District for the G.E.A.

Steve Petrie
Lake Oconee Lodge #2849
G.E.A. Membership Chairman