

**GEA October
Meeting
Schedules
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**GEORGIA
Elks
NEWS**

**Kansas City
Pages 18 & 19**

**GEA Annual Meeting
Jekyll Island, GA
Pages 7-10**

October 2025

**Meet GEA
President
Larry Pope &
First Lady Ana
Page 11**





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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 3 Golf Fore Kids
October 24 & 25 GEA Fall Meeting, Albany Lodge
November 27 Thanksgiving
December 13 Aidmore Decorating Party
December 14 Aidmore Christmas Party
December 25 Christmas



Lynda Lewis
Editor
Ga Elks News

I imagine you all are enjoying some fall weather and cooler temperatures, along with some football.

It feels like we just got back from Jekyll, time really flies. We welcomed Larry Pope and Ana as our new State President and First Lady. Learn more about Larry, Ana & family on page 11. I am sure they will do an excellent job this year so please give them your support. Thank you Dan Tatum, PSP, for a great year last year. You can now enjoy a well earned rest and continue to help the GEA as a PSP. Other highlights from the Jekyll Island annual convention can be found on pages 7-10. If you missed the Grand Lodge National Convention in Kansas City, some of the highlights are on pages 18 & 19.

The Albany Lodge will be hosting the Fall GEA meeting again this year. The Elks and Auxiliary always do a wonderful job with the meeting. The schedules for the fall meeting are on pages 16 & 17. I hope to see you there!

Larry R. Pope

President

**Georgia Elks Association
2025-2026**

**LEADERSHIP
*Matters!***

Steve Petrie

**President-Elect 2025-2026
Georgia Elks Association**

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gaelksnews@gmail.com

Lynda Lewis
EDITOR
PHOTOGRAPHER

or postal mail to:
Georgia Elks News
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Page 3

John Helgesen
EDITOR EMERITUS



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We are the Elks, all of US

What the Elks mean to me, family, love, comradeship, meaning, and lifelong friendships. You have helped me to celebrate my achievements, encouraged me and have stood beside me at my lowest, death and illness. You have held me close when I wept on your shoulder, as I have you. We have grown together and shared many years of happiness.

We (family decision) originally joined the Elks for the pool and social functions that the club had to offer. I had some friends that were members and all seemed great. My friends were active and working at the dinners, social functions, fundraisers etc. so we would get our drinks, food and sit down where we could. There were several cliques and we were treated as outsiders by some. Not to be deterred, over time we met other members that were also excluded and we formed our own clique, however we welcomed others into it, rather than exclude them. I was asked to become an appointed officer that first year, when one had to resign due to his work schedule. Most of our friends were, so I agreed.

At the Lodge level I got involved with committees, drug awareness, hoop shoot, dictionary, cleanup day and some others. I found out that it doesn't take that much time to make a difference. As an officer of the Lodge I went to the state meetings and discovered a whole new world. There were other lodges in our state and nationwide doing the same work in their communities and making a difference. So I asked to help on the state level and learned so much more.

One year while delivering food baskets to needy families at Thanksgiving. I experienced true gratitude when a small child (6 or 7 years old) came up to me and hugged my legs, looked up and thanked me for helping his family. That moment so simple, so powerful, captured why we do what we do. Our lodge would provide groceries enough to feed a family for a week, it may not sound like much but it was what we could afford with our budget and donations from members. We did the same at Christmas and later added gifts for the children. It wasn't extravagant, but the joy in their eyes was priceless.

Our veterans hold a special place in my heart. At every function, I shake each of their hands and thank them. Often, they'll hold on tightly, tears in their eyes, thanking us for remembering them. It's humbling and unforgettable.

I choose to work on the committees that mean the most to me at my lodge and at the state level. I have created a few different committees at my lodge that help our communities and that in turn has gotten the Elks name out into the community, as we aren't known for advertising our good deeds.

I believe this with my whole heart: You only get out of something what you're willing to put into it. And what I've received in return has enriched my life tenfold. The bar and pool (if you have one) are only fringe benefits of being a member of the Elks Lodge. So I ask that you choose to get involved to some extent and help to lighten the burden of those already working. It really takes very little time, just pick a committee that you are interested in. If you can't give time, give a donation. Every bit counts.

Whether you are a new member or older like myself, you can make a positive impact on your lodge and community, I did.

I am a proud member of the BPOE, Best People on Earth.

Be Loud, Proud and Visible

Anonymous Member



Larry Pope
GEA President

It is a privilege to serve as President of the Georgia Elks Association. I extend my sincere gratitude for the exceptional support Ana and I have received thus far; it has been truly appreciated. We have had the opportunity to visit several lodges across the state and have consistently been welcomed warmly by their members. Thank you for your generous hospitality and for inviting us to your lodges.

At this point in our term, we are three months into the state year. The District Deputies have successfully completed their first clinics, which provided valuable information and meaningful discussion on topics relevant to all members. I commend all three District Deputies for their dedication and effort in facilitating these clinics. Additionally, I appreciate the District Vice Presidents, who have begun their lodge visits and are submitting positive reports.

Georgia achieved an outstanding year in 2024/2025 under the leadership of Past State President Dan Tatum, earning two Grand Lodge awards that will be presented at our fall meeting in Albany, Georgia. Membership growth remains a central focus, and this year our objective is “Striving for Five”: achieving five consecutive years of positive membership growth. Our State Membership Chair, Steve Petrie, continues to share a Zoom call link for meetings held on the second Monday of each month, where membership and successful retention initiatives are discussed. Successful ideas often come from collaboration, so I encourage all members to participate and contribute their perspectives to further strengthen our association.

As we approach our Fall Meeting in Albany, Georgia, on October 24th and 25th, I invite all members to attend, engage, and offer innovative ideas to advance our organization. New voices and perspectives are essential to our continued success.

My mission statement for this year is Georgia Elks Have Heart. This is evident through our ongoing community projects and support for our flag, faith, military, first responders, and veterans. I urge everyone to promote and support our major state project, Elks Aidmore. You can participate by joining “Eight for Aidmore,” contributing \$8 per month—an amount comparable to just a couple of beverages—which can make a significant difference in the lives of young girls receiving vital assistance and care.

My door remains open, and I welcome any recommendations to further enhance our association.

Let us continue to embody the values of Elks Care and Elks Share by being LOUD, PROUD, and VISIBLE in all our endeavors.

Fraternally,
Larry R Pope
President, Georgia Elks Association



Joanne Bennett
President, Elks
Aidmore Auxiliary

A big thank you to the ladies of the Valdosta Auxiliary for hosting my workshop for State officers and Committees. We had two wonderful ladies come and speak to us: Tangelia Benjamin, Director of the Intake Department at Aidmore, and Shirl Cusick from United Military Care. We learned many valuable insights that we were able to share with our local auxiliaries.

As we look ahead to the Fall quarterly meeting on October 24th and 25th in Albany, GA, I hope everyone is excited to attend. Tickets for the pear-shaped diamond pendant necklace raffle are still available. The drawing for the beautiful ¾ carat diamond necklace set in 14K white gold will take place during the general business meeting on Saturday, October 25th.

Remember, let’s be swell in our support, great in our endeavors, and everything is coming up roses for Aidmore!

I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Joanne Bennett





**Mike Smith
PGER, PNP**

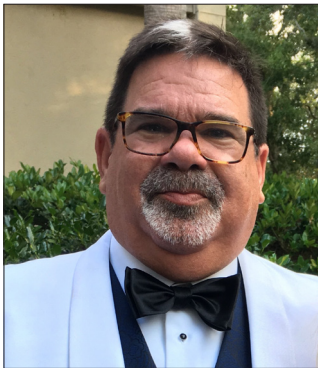
“KEEP GEORGIA GREAT” What a good year the Georgia Elks Association experienced last year. A positive growth in membership, an outstanding year for the Elks National Foundation, and FUN. This year as we are at midyear in our Lodge year we are “Smoking Hot”!!! Your Association under the leadership of State President, Larry Pope, and his wife Ana, and his Leadership Team, with the assistance of Special Deputy, Bruce Hayden, and his wife Lisa, we are soaring. As of mid-August, the Georgia Elks Association **ranks 2nd** in the nation in the Elks National Foundation donations per capita!!!!

After a strong showing last year in membership, we are on track to far exceed those numbers. Our membership Chairman, Steve Petrie, and his committee have the drive to catapult us to the front seating at the Annual Convention in Chicago. They need help from ALL members to make a statement. Currently we are a little above the national average on delinquency. As of mid-August we had 12.94% of our members Delinquent. We need the Northwest District to “PAY ATTENTION TO RETENTION”. We all should be LOUD, PROUD and VISIBLE about the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. We have attained a positive membership growth nationally for FOUR years in a row. Call your Lodge members who have not paid their dues and invite them down. Make them feel welcome and understand our impact of the children, Veterans and Community.

I hope everyone who attended the National Convention in Kansas City enjoyed themselves and made new friends. It was a Special Convention as we installed Bryan Klatt as our newly elected Grand Exalted Ruler after twenty years serving as Grand Secretary. Bryan and his wife Sue will be great Ambassadors of our Order. Next July 4th week our National Convention will be in Chicago! We will also be celebrating our Grand Lodge Memorial Building on its 100th anniversary. It will be one of the more memorable conventions you may ever attend. Fireworks on the Lake, Building Celebration on the Lake, and an outstanding Convention. You need to plan now as this will more than likely be a “sell out”.

Sandra and I look forward to seeing all of you in Albany in October to catch up on all of the good things happening with you. It is our honor to serve the GEA as Sponsor and Spouse. We have made many friendships and experienced the growth of the GEA. May GOD Bless All of Us and Our United States of America.

**Michael (Mike) Smith, PGER, PNP
GEA STATE SPONSOR**



**Bruce Hayden, PSP
Special Deputy
Past Grand Tiler**

Now that we have finished our DD Clinics, I want to thank DDGER Brenda Sailors, DDGER Ed Whitcomb and DDGER Bethany Jackson for diligently putting these clinics on. I also want to congratulate those Officers and Elks who attended and participated. As all of you were able to hear my message, one thing is clear. We need to focus on the business practices of our Lodges. Each and every Lodge is a business and should be treated as such, the business needs its finances looked after and treated with the utmost concern. PLEASE, as a Member, ask questions, ensure that the affairs of your Lodge is treated with the utmost care and call our many State Committees for help.

As we roll into our Fall Quarterly, I am excited to see everyone attend and be able to spend time with each of you. We will have run through the six months of our Lodge year by the time we get to Albany and if you haven't completed your Grant Applications, hit the GER donation per member for ENF, reviewed your financial statements, and heard a report from your Auditing & Accounting Committee, then you are way behind. Hopefully by the time we get to Albany every Lodge will have completed the above tasks, but in the event your Lodge hasn't, we will have those Committee Chairs available to assist in getting these things done. Come be a part of the solutions and help your Lodge lead the pack. The meetings are open to ANY and ALL Elks in good standing. Make sure your Lodge has a voice and is heard as well as seen in all of these great

Grand Lodge programs.

Let's not forget our great Drug Awareness programs as well. With Fall Festivals and Halloween parties taking place, get the drug trailers on the road, put on some events and let's do our part in tackling the drug problems in our communities. Our State Chairperson will be on hand to offer any assistance and advice that may be needed.

Finally, Membership! It isn't always about how many we bring through the front door, it also involves making sure that they are not slipping out of the back door. RETENTION is just as important as bringing in new members. NO community has an endless supply of people to joining our great Order so hanging on to those who joined is a battle we all have a responsibility to manage. The Zoom calls on a monthly basis are working so come join them and get some great ideas to take back to your Lodge to help not only keep Members engaged and active, but also attract new Members to your Lodge.

The faults of our Members we write upon the sand, their virtues on the tablets of love and memory.

Jekyll Island

GEA Annual Convention

Friday Morning

Friday morning, June 13th, the GEA began the business session of the 124th annual convention with the Presentation of Colors, followed by the Pledge to the Flag. Cyndi Russell, GEA Chaplain, gave the invocation. President Dan Tatum introduced the Grand Lodge officers, Mike Smith, PGER and State Sponsor, Bruce Hayden, Special Deputy, Past Grand Tiler, Ed Whitcomb, DDGER NE, Bethany Jackson, DDGER NW, and Brenda Sailors, DDGER South. President Tatum then introduced the GEA Vice Presidents, Stacey Simmons, NE, Jonathan Edwards, NW, and Charles Smith, South. The remaining State Officers were also recognized, along with the Past State Presidents. After the roll call of State Officers and Lodges by Tim Whalen, Sec./Treas./PSP/Past Grand Esquire, those in sickness and distress were recognized. After the Reports of Committees, there was a recess for the Memorial Service. The conclusion of the business meeting was resumed the next day on Saturday, June 14th.



Registration starts it all off. L-R: Tim Whalen, PSP, David Hicks & Steven Spradley, PSP



Above, Michelle Langham received an award for fundraising excellence & right, Steve Petrie gave a membership presentation wearing his Elk pajamas??



Afternoon Parties



President Dan Tatum held his farewell party on June 12th. L-R: Julie LoBeam, Dan Tatum & Nita Knighton, PSP



Steve Petrie held his Candidate for President-Elect party on Friday, June 13th.



Left, a reception was held on Saturday afternoon, June 14th, for newly elected GEA President, Larry Pope and Ladies Aux. President Joanne Bennett. Larry & Joanne were installed later at the Saturday night banquet. Lots of Elks and Auxiliary attended to wish Larry, Ana (first lady) and Joanne, a great year! Pictured are Larry and Ana Pope.

Friday Night Luau

Toccoa Lodge Members



Saturday Morning Americanism Program

On Saturday morning, the GEA held an Americanism Program. Everyone was welcomed by Stanley Santee, PSP, Americanism Chairman. Cyndi Russell, GEA Chaplain gave the invocation followed by President Dan Tatum leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Next came the presentation of Military Flags. As the Flag of their Branch was called, veterans stood and remained standing until all Flags were placed in stands. Carrying the POW/MIA Flag - David Dougherty, PER, the Army Flag - Larry Westberry, PDDGER, the Marine Flag - Piker Penn, PDDGER, the Navy Flag - Arthur Anderson, the Space Force Flag - Bill Lewis, PSP, and the Coast Guard Flag- Curtis Hart, PDDGER.

After the presentation of Flags, Stanley Santee, PSP, named the Americanism Essay contest winners: Division 1, 5th grade, Grace Griffin, Dalton Lodge, Division 2, 6th grade, Michael Marrero, Augusta Lodge, Division 3, 7th grade, Sky Lewis, Valdosta Lodge, and Division 4, 8th grade, Charlotte Bramlett, Dalton Lodge.

The guest speaker was Brigadier General John T. Gentry, Jr., United States Army, Retired. Brigadier General Gentry, Jr. is a retired 32-year Army Veteran who culminated his service as an Assistant Adjutant General in the Georgia Army National Guard and as a Deputy Commander of Mobilization for First Army at Fort Stewart, Georgia. His current civilian occupation is in local government as an Assistant County Manager in Glynn County, Georgia, serving in that role for 2 years. Prior to his current position, he served as a Parks and Recreation Director in Oconee and Gwinnett County for over 14 years.



Brigadier General John T. Gentry, Jr.

The program ended with everyone singing God Bless the USA by Lee Greenwood.



Presentation of Military Flags: L-R: Curtis Hart, PDDGER (Coast Guard), Bill Lewis, PSP (Space Force), Arthur Anderson (Air Force), Bob Reardon, PDDGER (Navy), Piker Penn, PDDGER (Marine), Larry Westberry, PDDGER (Army), and David Dougherty, PER (POW/MIA)



Cadet presented the folded Flag to Mike Smith, PGER



Bethany Jackson presented Cliff Arden with a gift for selling the most good fortune tickets in the south.



Maureen Manning presented Bob Rubright with Veteran Volunteer of the Year. Bob shared this honor with Jim Green who could not attend.



Cyndi Russell announced the winners of the DAP Charity Reporting Contest L-R: Cyndi Russell, Chair, Ken Crane, ER Cartersville, (NW) Jeff Roudebush, Covington (NE) and Yvonne Wyche, Valdosta (S)



Bruce Davis announced the winner of the 11 O'clock toast contest & the Tribute to the Flag - Junior Roberson, PSP



To the left, Arthur Anderson announced the winner of the Public Safety Officer of the Year which went to Fabian Rodriguez, EMT, sponsored by Marietta. The Dedication of Service Award went to Lt. Matthew Locke, Dalton Police Dept. sponsored by Dalton. Left, Arthur Anderson presented Lt. Locke's award to him in Dalton on June 25th.

To the right, Stan Jones, PSP, Scholarship Chairman presented Claire Jiang, sponsored by Marietta, with her \$2,000 check. Also receiving \$2,000 checks were Evan Lin sponsored by Eatonton and Elom Eskender sponsored by Atlanta-Northlake.



Installation and Awards Banquet (continued page 10)



Lynda Lewis, Ga Elks News Editor & Bill Lewis, PSP, Historian



Cliff Arden, Sergeant at Arms escorted by Judy Arden



Brenda Sailors, Tiler, escorted by Jerry Sailors



Steve Henderson, VP NW, escorted by Nikki Thompson



David Marrero, VP NE escorted by Yenny Marrero



Bob Reardon, VP South escorted by April Reardon



Center, Tim Whalen, PSP, Sec/Treas. escorted by Steven Spradley, PSP and Nita Knighton, PSP



Mike Johnson, Chaplain, escorted by Deborah Johnson, PSP Aux.



Vance Rhodes, PSP, Parliamentarian, escorted by Peggy Rhodes, PSP Aux.



Left center, Steve Petrie, President-Elect being escorted by far left, Ed Whitcomb, DDGER NE, right, center, Jonathan Edwards, Calhoun Lodge & far right, R.J. Fernandes, ER, Brunswick Lodge.



GEA President Larry Pope and First Lady Ana, being escorted by their grandchildren Anslee and Pierce Fraley

Installation and Awards Banquet (continued)



Nita Knighton, PSP pins on Dan Tatum's Past State President's pin



Dan Tatum is now a proud Past State President



Dan Tatum gives his farewell speech



Dan Tatum, PSP pins the GEA President's pin on Larry Pope's jacket



Mike Smith, PGER presented President Pope with his gavel



President Pope gets a handshake from Mike Smith, PGER



President Pope gives his acceptance speech



Nita Knighton, PSP, Elk of the Year with President Dan Tatum



Cyndi Russell received the Past State President's Award from Vance Rhodes, PSP



Lynda Lewis, Officer of the Year with President Dan Tatum



Cliff Arden, Secretary of the Year pictured with Nita Knighton, PSP



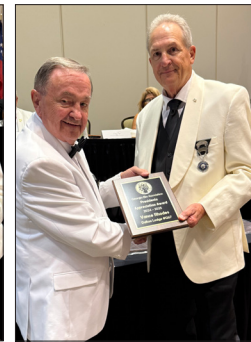
John White, ER Lake Oconee, ER of the Year pictured with President Dan Tatum



John White, ER Lake Oconee Lodge, accepted Lake Oconee Lodge - Lodge of the Year



Pres. Tatum presented Nita Knighton, PSP with a Pres. Appreciation Award



Pres. Tatum presented Vance Rhodes, PSP with a Pres. Appreciation Award



Pres. Tatum presented Lynda Lewis with a Pres. Appreciation Award



Pres. Tatum presented Jeff Tatum with a Pres. Appreciation Award



Pres. Tatum presented Larry Pope with a Pres. Appreciation Award



Pres. Tatum presented Tim Whalen, PSP with a Pres. Appreciation Award



Pres. Tatum presented Bruce Hayden, PSP with a Pres. Appreciation Award



Pres. Tatum presented Steve Petrie with a Pres. Appreciation Award



Pres. Tatum presented Cyndi Russell with a Pres. Appreciation Award

Meet GEA President and First Lady Larry & Ana Pope & Family



L-R Back Row: Ginger Fraley, President Larry Pope, First Lady Ana Pope, Rodgers Fraley Front row: Anslee Fraley, 10, & Pierce Fraley, 6.

GEA President Larry Pope was born in Jacksonville, Florida on March 12, 1954. He grew up in Newnan, Georgia. Larry says his family moved from Jacksonville when he was 3 years old and lived in Lithia Springs until he was 7 years old. His family then moved to South Douglasville where Larry attended Winston Elementary School. The family moved to Newnan, Georgia when Larry was in junior high school.

Larry graduated from Newnan High School in 1973. He does keep in touch with his high school classmates by attending reunions, the last one was the 50th.

Larry met Ana in April of 2006 at El Toreo Mexican Restaurant and they have been married for 18 years. They were married on December 31, 2007. Ana loves her flower garden, enjoys shopping, and loves the Elks.

Larry and Ana have a blended family, with a combined 5 kids, 4 girls and 1 boy. They have 11 grandchildren, 10 boys and 1 girl. I suspect the little girl is spoiled by everyone. Their kids are Holli and her husband Tracy Phillips, Matt and his wife Amanda Pope, Heather Nicole Hales, Ginger and her husband Rodgers Fraley, and Liana and

her husband Ethan Colvin. The grandchildren are Chase Stewart (26), Dalton Phillips (25), Avery Phillips (21), (Avery is in the Navy and is a dive medic stationed at Coronado in San Diego, CA), Tucker Pope (21), Bo Pope (12), Anslee Fraley (10), Pierce Fraley (6), Jameson Hales (8), Watson Fox Hales (4), Truitt Colvin (3), and Tilden Colvin (2).

Larry has worked for Gordon Transport for 3 years as a mechanic, 9 years for Georgia Highway Express as a master diesel mechanic and 26 years for Pepsi Cola, during which he had several jobs: He was fleet manager in Atlanta, Regional distribution manager in South Georgia (Valdosta), then he was promoted to key account manager. Larry worked for Bruce Hayden at AlphaProTech Engineered Products for 18 years as director of sales east coast. He is now retired after 56 years of work life.

Now that Larry is retired he enjoys hunting and fishing. His likes western movies. Tombstone with Kurt Russell and Val Kilmer is his favorite. Larry likes most music but country and classic rock are his favorite.

Larry likes to travel but Ana does not especially when it comes to flying. Alaska and Maine are two of the best states he has visited besides living in Georgia.

Larry has been an Elk for 19 years. He became a member because Ana was a member and she got him involved. When asked what his goals are as the new GEA President, Larry said, "IT'S ALL GAS, NO BRAKES, we are striving for FIVE years in a row. Membership growth is always a goal. We need to build programs that will help us retain our current members and strengthen unity within our fraternal order. Remember, GEORGIA ELKS HAVE HEART! Let's promote it within our communities. I also plan to be visible to all lodges this year to attend your events as much as my time permits." Larry absolutely, without question, plans to stay involved after his year as President.

When asked if there is anything he would like people to know about him that they might not know he said: "I take the job as President seriously, I'm results driven, not afraid of change, but also a good listener. I truly believe that sometimes your best ideas are not your own. I like to acknowledge people for their efforts and use their strengths. I'm proud to be a Georgia Elk."

Larry and the First Lady wish every lodge continued success!



**Grandchildren
Ansee & Pierce Fraley**

Ladies Auxiliary Installation at the Banquet



Miriam Witherspoon Wheeler, Chaplain, escorted by Jeff Roudebush



Harriet Watson, PSP Aux., Parliamentarian, escorted by Charlie Watson



Deborah Johnson, PSP Aux., Corresponding Sec., escorted by Mike Johnson



Peggy Rhodes, PSP, Aux., Treasurer, escorted by Vance Rhodes, PSP



Pamila Parker, VP NW, escorted by Mike Parker



Mickie Emmett, PSP Aux., VP NE, escorted by Jane Santee



Judy Arden, standing in for Pam Stewart, PSP Aux., Rec. Sec., escorted by Cliff Arden



Debbie Barrett, standing in for Dannie Anderson, PSP Aux., VP S, escorted by Jeff Barrett



Barbara Burnett, Outgoing Aux. Pres. escorted by Cheryl Wilson, PSP Aux.



Incoming President-Elect, Miriam Wheeler, escorted by Jeff Roudebush



Incoming Auxiliary President Joanne Bennett escorted by Gary Bennett



Joanne Bennett puts the PSP Aux. pin on Barbara Burnett



Barbara Burnett, PSP Aux., puts the Aux. President's pin on Joanne Bennett



Bruce Hayden, PSP, back left, conducted the Installation of Officers for the Ladies Auxiliary. Pictured after their installation are L-R: Miriam Witherspoon Wheeler, Peggy Rhodes, PSP Aux., Deborah Johnson, PSP Aux., Mickie Emmett, PSP Aux., Miriam Wheeler, President-Elect, Joanne Bennett, Auxiliary President, Pamela Parker, Judy Arden (standing in for Pam Stewart, PSP Aux.), Debbie Barrett (standing in for Dannie Anderson, PSP Aux.), Harriet Watson, PSP Aux., and Barbara Burnett, PSP Aux.



Nancy Strickland, PSP Aux., to the right with horseshoe winner Kathy Carpenter



Nancy Strickland, PSP Aux., center with horseshoe winners Ann Regan, left, and Mary Ann Wayne, right.



Nancy Strickland, PSP Aux., left, presented the proceeds from horseshoes to Aidmore CEO Dr. Vickie Hale



Mike Johnson, Athletic Activities, also presented a check to Dr. Vickie Hale, CEO. L-R: Mike Johnson, Dr. Hale, Laura Nichols, CFO, & Stanley Santee, PSP, Aidmore President



The Aux. PSPs held a luncheon on Jekyll island at the annual convention. Back row: Heather Hickey, Sarah Hendricks, Deborah Johnson, Joanne Bennett, Pres.-Elect and Barbara Burnett, Aux. Pres. Front row: Jenny Taylor, Mickie Emmett, Peggy Rhodes, Harriet Watson, Nancy Strickland, and Cheryl Wilson



Newly elected officers of the Past Auxiliary Presidents Association. Nancy Strickland, President, Sarah Hendricks, Sec., Sheila Platt, Finance, and Dannie Anderson, Chaplain.



Thanking the outgoing officers, L-R: Mickie Emmett, PSP Aux., Stephanie West, Sheila Platt, Kathy Carpenter & Aux. Pres. Barbara Burnett



Mickie Emmett, PSP Aux., installing the new officers L-R: Nancy Strickland, President Aux., Sarah Hendricks, Sec., Sheila Platt, Treasurer, and Dannie Anderson, Chaplain

News From Aidmore



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

It has been a season of exciting milestones for Elks Aidmore! On June 18, we proudly opened our new Assessment Center, and I am delighted to report that it is already at full capacity. This accomplishment marks a significant step forward in expanding the care and services we provide to children and families across Georgia. While the first few weeks have brought challenges, our staff and residents are adjusting well and moving forward with determination.

This season has also brought deep sorrow, as we grieve the loss of a youth in our program to suicide. Moments like this remind us how critical and urgent our work is. Even in the midst of heartbreak, we remain committed to walking alongside every child and family with compassion, hope, and unwavering support. The importance of what we do is never more evident than during times such as these.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the volunteers who assisted at our booth during the Elks National Convention. We are happy to report that our booth received 5 Stars again this year by demonstrating and highlighting the great work that is done every day at the agency.

Additionally, we are also thankful for the donations received during the Ga Elks Annual Meeting. Listed below are the funds that were raised:

\$110.00 Cash for Golf Fore Kids Ball Drop Tickets
\$120.00 for the Aidmore 5K
\$1,100.00 Donations
\$226.50 Cash for Lapel Pins
\$400.00 Check from the Auxiliary Horseshoe Committee
\$800.00 Check from the Georgia Elks Athletic Activities Committee
\$850.00 in Checks for Aidmore Auction Items
\$4,820.00 in Credit Card sales for the Aidmore Auction
\$1,655.00 in Cash for the Aidmore Auction

Grand Total Raised: \$10,081.50 to further the mission of Elks Aidmore.

As we look ahead, I encourage everyone to support our upcoming Golf Fore Kids event. You can participate by organizing a team, joining a team, volunteering, donating door prizes, getting a sponsorship from a local business or having your lodge or auxiliary be a hole sponsor. Every effort makes a meaningful difference for the children and families we serve.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Elks Aidmore Auxiliary and the participating lodges for their generosity in providing back-to-school supplies. Your support ensures that our youth start the school year prepared.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Elks Aidmore, Inc. and the children and families we are privileged to serve.

Dr. Vickey Hale
Chief Executive Officer
Elks Aidmore, Inc.



The Aidmore booth in Kansas City received a 5 Star Award for its booth. Pictured L-R: Harriet Watson, PSP Aux., Deborah Johnson, PSP Aux., Dr. Vickey Hale, Aidmore CEO, Laura Nichols, Aidmore CFO, Steve Henderson, VP NW, Bobbie Torres, Aux. Savannah, and Christo Hickey, Brunswick Lodge.



Lake Oconee Auxiliary presented a check for \$7,000 towards the Assessment Center's Dayroom furniture. Pictured left, is Laura Nichols, Aidmore CFO receiving the check from one of the Lake Oconee Ladies Auxiliary (LOLA) members.

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 from April 15, to September 5, 2025

MEMORIALS

LOIS BINNS

Stan and Margie Jones

LINDA BROWN

Prospect Church

MELVYN CARTER

Stan and Margie Jones

BETH CURLES

Stan and Margie Jones

SAMMIE DOUGHERTY

Stan and Margie Jones

CHARLES "CHUCK" FENNELL

Dwaine Lovingood

JIMMY SHAWN FIELDING

Dwaine Lovingood

CAROL HARRELSON

Abe and Teresia Wilkinson

Dwaine Lovingood

Michael and Mary Bailey

Wayne and Charlotte Johnson

Charlie and Sarah Hendricks

Patricia Harper

Stan and Margie Jones

WILLIAM MILLER

Dwaine Lovingood

RODNEY SMITH

Michael Bailey

EIGHT FOR AIDMORE

Curtis Hart

Theresa Parker

David Yohler

Lisa D. Hall-Favor

Beverly Sumner

Anthony Bizzard

Andrew Lobean

Piker and Brownie Penn

Rex Ethridge, Sr.



ELKS AIDMORE
27TH GOLF FORE KIDS
TOURNAMENT
At
The Creek Golf Course at
Hard Labor Creek

We are thrilled to invite all avid golfers and enthusiasts to participate in our prestigious annual golf tournament!

- 770-483-3535
- **OCTOBER 3, 2025**
- www.elksaidmore.com

JOIN NOW

\$480 per team
or
\$120 per player



Auxiliary President Joanne Bennett presents a check to Elks Aidmore CEO Dr. Vickie Hale and staff from the Valdosta Office.



Aidmore CEO Dr. Vickie Hale, CFO Laura Nichols & Stanley Santee, PSP, Aidmore President, accepted a check during the banquet at Jekyll.

**GEA FALL MEETING
ALBANY LODGE #718
3213 GILLONVILLE ROAD
October 24 – 25, 2025**

Friday October 24th

All events at Albany Lodge Dress for Friday Casual

10:00 - 4:00	Registration Desk Open
4:00 - 5:00	Lodge Secretary/Treasurer Meeting
4:00 - 5:00	Past State Presidents Meeting
5:00 - 5:30	GEA Board Meeting
5:30 - 6:00	GEA Charity Board Meeting
6:00 - 7:00	Cocktails
7:00 - Until	Dinner and Dancing

Saturday October 25th

Breakfast on your own. Dress Casual for Meeting

7:00 - 9:30	Registration Desk Open
7:00 - 9:00	Credentials Desk Open
8:00 - 9:00	GEA President Mtg with VP's and President-Elect
9:00- 11:00	Business Meeting
11:00 - 1:00	Lunch at the Lodge on your own
1:00 - 2:00	PER Association Meeting
2:00 - 4:00	Athletic Activities: Mike Johnson
5:00 - 6:00	Meet/Greet President-Elect Candidates (update change after magazine went out)
7:00 - Until	Banquet and Dance (Dress: Men Coat & Tie: Ladies-Dressy)

**BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA
SATURDAY OCTOBER 25, 2025
9:00 – 11:00 AM**

Call to Order	Larry Pope, President
Presentation of Colors	Valdosta Lodge #728
Pledge to Flag	Steve Petrie, Pres.-Elect
Invocation	Mike Johnson, Chaplain

Welcome/Introduction of Albany ER Debbie Dougherty	Larry Pope, President
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<u>Intro of Grand Lodge Officers</u>	Larry Pope, President
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Mike Smith, PGER & State Sponsor
Bruce Hayden, SDGER & Past Grand Tiler
Tim Whalen, Past Grand Esquire &
GEA Secretary/Treasurer

<u>Intro GEA Officers (Head Table)</u>	Larry Pope, President
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Steve Petrie, PDDGER, President-Elect
Vance Rhodes, PSP, Parliamentarian
Mike Johnson, Chaplain

Recognition of District Vice Presidents

Steve Henderson, VP NW
David Marrero, VP NE
Bob Reardon, VP South

Recognition of Past State Presidents

**BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA
(continued)**

Recognition of District Deputy GER

Bethany Jackson, DDGER NW
Ed Whitcomb, DDGER NE
Brenda Sailors, DDGER South

Roll Call

State Officers / Lodges	Tim Whalen, Sec/Treas.
Minutes of Previous Session	Tim Whalen, Sec/Treas.

Sickness & Distres

Larry Pope, President

Introduction of State Sponsor

Bruce Hayden, SDGER
Past Grand Tiler
Mike Smith, PGER

State Sponsor Remarks

Reports

President	Larry Pope
President-Elect	Steve Petrie
Chairman, GEA Board & GEA Chairty Board	Junior Roberson PSP
Aidmore	Stanley Santee PSP
DDGER's NW, NE, South	Jackson, Whitcomb, Sailors
District VP's NW, NE, S	Henderson, Marrero, Reardon

Reports of Committees

Membership	Steve Petrie, Pres.-Elect
Audit & Accounting / IRS	Jane Santee PDDGER
Leadership Academy	Jane Santee PDDGER
Business Practices	Cliff Arden PDDGER
New Lodge Development	Bruce Hayden, SPDGER

Disaster Relief	Bill Lewis PSP
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Drug Awareness	Cyndi Russell
Lodge Activities	Beth Colie
Budget	Tim Whalen PSP
Convention	Tim Whalen PSP
Government Relations	Ned Thompson
Insurance/Accident Prevention	Stan Jones PSP
Scholarships	Brian Russell PDDGER
Elks National Foundation	Maureen Manning
Elks National Service Veterans	Stanley Santee PSP
Americanism	Authur Anderson

Public Safety Officer	Nita Knighton PSP
Public Relations	Amber Henderson
Leadership Training	Bethany Jackson
Memorial Service	DDGER
Fundraising	Michelle Langham

Grants	Vance Rhodes, PSP
Hoop Shoot	Junior Roberson PSP
Soccer Shoot	Wendy Morris
Youth Activities	Mike Johnson
Athletic Activities	Bruce Davis
Ritualistic	Rick Corbett
Credentials	

Old Business

New Business

Good of the Order

Awards

Resolutions

Vance Rhodes, PSP

Adjournment

Larry Pope, President

**ALBANY ELKS LODGE #718
BANQUET AGENDA
OCTOBER 25, 2025 7:00PM**

7:00 PM Banquet Dinner

(Dress Men, Coat & Tie, Ladies Dressy)

Call to Order

Larry Pope, President

Invocation

Mike Johnson Chaplain

Introduction

Larry Pope, President

Head Table

From my right, Past Grand Esquire & GEA Sec/Treas. Tim Whalen
Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce Hayden & his wife Lisa
Past Grand Exalted Ruler & State Sponsor Mike Smith & his wife Sandra

From my left, Chaplin Mike Johnson & his wife Deborah PSP Elks
Aidmore Auxiliary
Aidmore Auxiliary State President Joanne Bennett & her husband Gary
State President-Elect Steve Petrie
My better half and First Lady Ana Pope

District Deputies

NW, Ed Witcomb
NE, Bethany Jackson
South, Brenda Sailors

Vice Presidents

NW, Steve Henderson
NE, David Marrero
South, Bob Reardon

Past State Presidents, please rise

Auxiliary Introductions

Joanne Bennett, President

Break for Dinner

After Dinner

Intro of Special Deputy GER
Intro of State Sponsor
State Sponsor Remarks
GEA President Remarks

Larry Pope, President
Bruce Hayden, SDGER
Mike Smith, PGER
Larry Pope, President

Drawing and Announcement of Winners
(Beast of a Raffle)

Bruce Hayden, SDGER

Auxiliary President Remarks

Joanne Bennett, President

Eleven O'Clock Toast

Junior Roberson, PSP

Benediction

Mike Johnson, Chaplain

Adjournment

Larry Pope, President

**Georgia Elks Aidmore Auxiliary
Fall Meeting Schedule
Albany Lodge #718
3213 Gillionville Rd.
October 24-25, 2025**

Friday, October 24

All events at Albany Lodge dress for Friday casual

Registration Desk Open	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Past State Presidents Luncheon	11:00 AM
Biancas Restaurant	
2401 Dawson Rd. Unit T-1	
Albany, GA	

Auxiliary Past Presidents Meeting	2:00 PM
Horseshoes	3:00 PM
Cocktails	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Dinner/Dance	7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Saturday, October 25

Breakfast on your own. Dress casual for meeting

Credentials Desk Open	8:00 AM - 8:45 AM
General Business Meeting	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Lunch (on your own)	11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Cocktail hour	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Banquet/Dance	7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Ladies -Dressy attire, Men – Coat and Tie

Below, Aidmore live and silent auctions at the
annual convention at Jekyll.

Dean Rosier was
the auctioneer
at the annual
Aidmore Auc-
tion held at the
annual conven-
tion on Jekyll.
Total raised was
\$7,325



Highlights from Kansas City Grand Lodge Convention



Larry Pope, GEA President, proudly carried the Georgia Flag in the Presidents' Parade of Flags in the opening ceremony for the 160th Grand Lodge Convention in Kansas City, MO on June 29th.



GER-Elect Bryan R. Klatt and First Lady Susan kept the tradition with a kiss after the Nominations and Election of Grand Lodge Officers. (photo from the Grand Lodge convention newsletter/photo taken by Gary Rohman/Rohman Photography)



Trolley Car Tour - L-R: Scott & Tracey Pitocchelli, Lynda & Bill Lewis, PSP, and Sandra & John White, ER Lake Oconee



Nice group of the Georgia delegates at the opening ceremony.



Above, another awesome job with the hospitality room and food this year. Pictured L-R: Bethany Jackson, DDGER NW, Wendy Morris, Sommer Taylor and in the back Ken Crane, ER, Cartersville



Left, Award winning Aidmore Booth in Kansas City. Pictured L-R: Mike Parker, Stanley Santee, PSP, Jane Santee, Larry Pope, GEA Pres., Dr. Vickey Hale, CEO Aidmore, Laura Nichols, CFO Aidmore, Ed Whitcomb, DDGER NE, and Brenda Sailors, DDGER South



April Reardon (red shirt) with a couple of friends



Wendy Morris & Ken Crane, ER



Margie & Stan Jones, Junior Roberson & Cyndi Russell



Greg Hickey & Wendy Morris



Harriet & Charlie Watson, Molly & Dwaine Lovin-good, Cliff & Judy Arden



Dwaine Lov-ingood, PSP & Bob Colie, PSP



Union Station



Georgia Hotel/ Hotel Kansas City



Committee Reports

Drug Awareness



Is it Fall yet?

I am ready for cooler weather, football season, and DAP events we can all do. I have enjoyed seeing all the lodges during the DD Clinics. I will however ask again to please send me the lodge DAP chair's email and/or phone number.

Here are a few ideas to get you prepared.

September:

1. Planning for Drug Awareness Month in October should be completed
2. Planning for Red Ribbon Week in October should be completed
3. Are you planning for Alcohol Awareness Week in November?
4. Start planning for a Great American Smoke-out event on the third Thursday November.
5. Are you working on your Drug Awareness Essay Contest?

October:

1. Finalize plans for Red Ribbon Week
2. Finalize plans for Alcohol Awareness week
3. Share share share the poster/essay and video contest.
4. Partner with health providers to promote Great American Smoke Out.
5. Make an appointment with local law enforcement to nominate for the Enrique Camarena Award.
6. Remember it is LIGHT UP AMERICA RED month. Ask local businesses, government buildings, law enforcement buildings to add red lights for Red Ribbon Week.

DRUG AWARENESS Month

RED RIBBON WEEK

National Prescription Take-Back Day October 25, 2025 from 10:00am - 2:00pm. Is your Lodge involved?

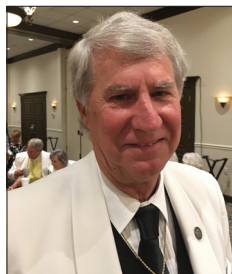
Do not forget the following items:

1. Take bookmarks to Libraries.
2. Take coloring books to restaurant.
3. Use the coloring books in your Lodge dining room.
4. Setup a booth/table at community events.
5. Work with your school resource officers.
6. Including the DAP bookmarks in your Dictionary Project
7. Contacting schools, libraries, Social Service offices, etc. To see if they would like some of the Elks DAP material
8. Submit an article for your Lodge bulletin

I look forward to seeing everyone in Albany for the Fall meeting.

Cyndi Russell

Scholarships



**Stan Jones, PSP
Scholarship
Chairman**

The Most Valuable Student Contest is open to all high school seniors who are United States Citizens. The application is available at enf.elks.org/MVS and must be submitted by November 12, 2025. Our District Awards for both males and females will be \$1,500, First Place, \$1,250, Second place, \$1,000, Third place, and \$750, Fourth place in each District. Our 3 State winners will receive \$2,000 each plus a weekend at Jekyll Island to attend our Annual Meeting of the Ga. Elks Association and receive their Awards. They will also have their applications forwarded to ENF for Grand Lodge Judging and a minimum of at least another \$4,000 Scholarship.

These 3 State winners will be the top male and female and the next highest score in the State contest. Beside our Local, District and State Awards, the Elks National Foundation will give 500 scholarships to deserving high school seniors in the amount of \$2.52 million dollars. There will be 480 \$4,000 Scholarships and 20 \$30,000 Scholarships. Please get this information to your high school counselors in your area.

The Elks National Foundation Awards \$1.4 million in scholarships to high school seniors who are children or grandchildren of Elks. These are \$4,000 Scholarships. The Legacy contest opened on Sept. 2, 2025 and closes Feb. 2, 2026. Applications are available by going to enf.elks.org/leg

The Ga. Elks Association Boska Nursing Scholarship should be on line and brochures available at our Fall Meeting in Albany. Many thanks to Lynda Lewis for designing and having our brochure printed and many thanks also to Pres. Elect Steve Petrie for preparing our application to be put on line and to be able to fill out the application on line and submit to the judges. We are starting off giving one scholarship for a four year period, each year we will add an additional recipient. We will be giving four scholarships each year in four years. We would like to grow the Trust Fund so we will be able to give more scholarships in the future. Please make a tax deductible donation to Ga. Elks Charities and earmark the check for Scholarship Trust. You may also make part of your mandatory distribution to the Ga. Elks Association Charities and you will pay no tax on the amount taken out of your IRA and donated to a qualified charity.



Hoop Shoot



**Vance Rhodes,
PSP
Hoop Shoot
Chairman**

GEORGIA ELKS HOOP SHOOT – 2025-2026 SEASON

We're excited to kick off another great season of the Georgia Elks Hoop Shoot and are looking forward to even more Lodges getting involved this year!

Last season, we achieved 100% Lodge participation in Georgia — every Lodge submitted their participation report. While not all Lodges hosted a shoot, completing the form is a vital first step in supporting our youth programs, and we thank you for that effort.

Why Your Participation Matters

Your Lodge's commitment can make a lasting difference in the lives of young people and in your local community. By taking part in the Hoop Shoot, you help teach kids important life lessons — how to compete with integrity, how to win or lose with respect, and how to take responsibility for their actions. These experiences build stronger, more confident individuals whose growth will extend far beyond the court.

Let this be the year your Lodge steps up even more — reach out into your community and show the positive impact the Elks have on our children's futures.

Dates & Information

The dates for this year's state and district Hoop Shoot competitions, along with all related updates, will be posted on the Georgia Elks website as they become available:



www.gaelks.org → Activities > GEA Activities

Please coordinate your local Lodge competition dates accordingly.

We're Here to Help

If your Lodge needs assistance getting started or has any questions, our Hoop Shoot Committee is ready and available. Don't hesitate to reach out — we're here to support you every step of the way.

Let's make this season our best one yet!

GEA Hoop Shoot Directors:

Vance Rhodes, State Hoop Shoot Director
Bob Colie, Lake Oconee Lodge, NE District Director
Randy Keener, Dalton Lodge, NW District Director
Charlie Watson, Albany Lodge, S District Director



Fraternally,
Vance



Vance Rhodes, PSP and State Hoop Shoot Chairman, Peggy Rhodes, PSP Aux. & Tim Whalen, PSP, attended the National Hoop Shoot in Chicago in April. Looks like one of our Georgia Hoop Shoot families are seated behind them.

Soccer News

Georgia Elks

There is no time like NOW to BE THE DIFFERENCE in our communities. A great way to do that is by using the Elks youth programs. Which brings me to Soccer, one of my favorites.

The Soccer Shoot IS a growing program as evidence the Grand Lodge has added it back as a National Program with funding coming to Districts to help build the program.

I am sure by now Lodges are preparing to host a Soccer Shoot. Don't let your Lodge be left out on strengthening this program in Georgia. If your lodge needs help with the Soccer Shoot please reach out to me. I am available by phone, text, and email. willierobersonjr@gmail.com or 706-847-7122

The State Soccer Shoot will be November 16th at 2:00 pm on the Aidmore campus.

SOCCER IT'S A KICK

Be Loud Be Proud Be Visible
Be a DGE
BE THE DIFFERENCE

Junior Roberson PSP
Soccer Chair
Georgia Elks Association



**Junior Roberson,
PSP
Soccer Chairman
706-847-7122
[willieroberson@
gmail.com](mailto:willieroberson@gmail.com)**

News From Lodges Around The State



Albany Lodge #713 presented a Drug-Awareness program at Albany State. It is known as ASYEP. Albany State Youth Enrichment Program. The youth were 11-14 year olds, both boys and girls. There were approximately 150 in attendance. L-R: Lou Taylor, Johnny Kavanaugh, April Reardon, Harriet Watson, PSP Aux. and Charlie Watson



Albany Lodge #713 presented ELVIS at the lodge on August 23. Pictured with Elvis in the center are L-R: Debbie Dougherty, ER, Patt Taylor, Marilyn Fowler, Elvis, Jo Carol Lott, April Reardon, Harriet Watson, PSP Aux. and Marion Cox. Great job ladies with planning and decorating for this fun event. Right, Elvis, aka Jordon Poole, in his pink Cadillac.



Atlanta-Northlake Lodge #78 used some of the Beacon Grant funds to host 15 Veterans and 5 staff to relive this childhood memory with a visit to the Yaarab Shrine Circus May 20, 2025. The veterans are residents of the domiciliary at Ft. MacPherson. After the show, they were escorted to an adjacent tent for a lunch of hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and drinks. Pictured are Elks Tobin Sexton (orange shirt in back), Linda Schreiber in front of him and Larry Alchley, middle row far right.



Augusta Lodge #205 recieved a Citation of Merit from the Grand Lodge. David Marrero, ER & VP NE, accepted it at the NE DD Clinic presented by Ed Whitcomb, NE District Deputy.



Augusta Lodge #205 members and family members helped to set up their annual veterans memorial display at Platt's Funeral Home.



Brunswick Lodge w#691 collected and subsequently distributed school supplies to three area elementary schools, Molette, Altama, and Goodyear. Contributions, consisting of \$2,000 of supplies, originated from members, the lodge auxiliary and players from bingo. (not pictured Altama Elementary School) Above, **Molette Elementary** L-R: Kevin Weese, Rachel Hamilton, Teresa Weese-Auxiliary, Principal Patricia Brooks, Principal Dr. Priscilla Bell, Principal Patrick Ellington and Brenda Sailors, DDGER South



Brunswick Lodge #691 also donated supplies to **Goodyear Elementary School**, Pictured L-R: Alicia Flowers, Principal, Rebecca Goff, Assistant Principal, Brenda Sailors, South DDGER, Kayla Coty, Counselor, Grace Coty, Teacher, Kevin Weese, Rachel Hamilton, Teresa Weese-Auxiliary, and Cynthia Ford, Assistant Principal



Brunswick Lodge #691 proudly honored Glynn County Police Chief Scott M. Ebner as its Citizen of the Year! It was wonderful celebrating a Chief who leads our team of professionals making Glynn County a better and safer place. Pictured: ER R.J. Fernandez presenting Chief Ebner with the Elks Citizen of the Year award. Plus, the lodge recognized many other of its members. Officer of the Year, Marvin Reese, Elk of the Year, Rhonda Harper, Special awards were given to: Board of Directors for 2024-2025 and Tom Barber, Heather Hickey, PSP Aux., Dale Riddle, Gary Corey & Patti Barber.



Brunswick Lodge #691 fed local veterans and families following a nearby Memorial Day ceremony. Hotdogs, hamburgers, chips, & drinks were served to the attendees. The Lodge had its own program earlier with the Pledge of Allegiance, songs of the services played, and ER R.J. Fernandes giving an inspiring speech. Pictured is the kitchen staff who served around 115.



Above and left, Brunswick Lodge #691 auxiliary donated \$2,000 to the Brunswick City canine unit in memory of Verna Carlisle, former member of the Auxiliary. Front row: Lisa Carlisle, Verna's daughter and husband Bob Carlisle. Back Row: Sgt. Giesbers, Captain Wilson, Officer DeBrujin and Auxiliary President Jerry Sailors. Above, Brunswick Auxiliary President Jerry Sailors presenting the check for \$2,000 to the Brunswick City canine unit on behalf

of the Brunswick Auxiliary. L-R: Sgt. Giesbers, Officer DeBrujin, Captain Wilson excepting the check from Auxiliary President Jerry Sailors.



Calhoun Lodge #1883 donated the remainder of the ENF Gratitude Grant to the Boys & Girls Club of Gordon County in the amount of \$1,500. L-R: Jonathan Edwards, Scope Denmon, Club Director.



Calhoun Lodge #1883 donated \$1,500 to the Winner's Club of Calhoun. The goal of the Winner's club is to help each child become a Winner. Every child possesses the ability to become a winner at something, in his or her life. Its goal is to provide a loving and tutoring environment for each child.



Cartersville Lodge #1969 had a great night for their Ladies' Wine on the River with great music from Alex Sinfield. The weather was perfect. They enjoyed wonderful food provided by members and wine served most attentively by some of the guys.



Covington Lodge #1806 held a Flag Retirement ceremony on Flag Day.



Covington Lodge # 1806 held a Drug Awareness Program at the City of Oxford, 4th of July Parade.



Dalton Lodge #1267 held its annual Youth Banquet to honor the future leaders. The Lodge awarded 15 local seniors with scholarships and 12 local 5th -8th graders certificates and monetary awards for their Americanism Essay entry. Congratulations to everyone and thank you to all who helped make the night happen.



Dalton Lodge #1267 and the American Legion held a Memorial Day program. L-R: Mike Parker, Vance Rhodes, PSP and Michelle Langham



Dalton Lodge #1267 donated \$1,000 to Coahulla Creek High School's Colts Closet. The closet provides clothing, personal hygiene items, pantry items and other items such as book bags and school supplies to students who are experiencing hardships and in need of extra support. Pictured are Michelle Langham on the right and Melissa Elliott, Counseling Department Registrar Coahulla Creek High School on the left.

Dalton Lodge #1267 also proudly donated \$1,000 to Hero Agriculture.



Eatonton Lodge #2549 hosted a summer paint and sip evening. There were 39 attendees and they painted summer themed door hangers. Pictured are just a few of the beautiful hangers.



Eatonton Lodge #2549 hosted a catfish dinner on June 18th for the residents of the Ga War Veterans Home. Vets enjoyed whole or filleted catfish, hush puppies, coleslaw and french fries.



Above & right, **Eatonton Lodge #2549** held its Junior Golf Clinic on June 3rd. It was a huge success. Thank you to all of our volunteers for your help. We enjoyed working with each child.



Above, left, **Elberton-Athens #1100** held a BBQ Rib Cook-Off on August 9th. Right, **Elberton -Athens #1100** also hosted a charity golf tournament on August 30th.

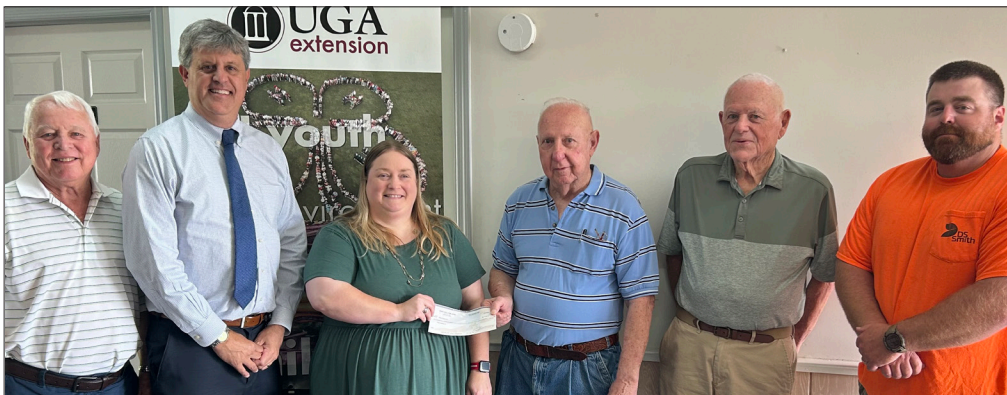


Debbie Johnson, ER, and Armor Maddox, PER, **Eatonton Lodge #2549** both received a President's Appreciation award from Dan Tatum, PSP, at Jekyll. They are pictured above receiving their awards from Tim Whalen, PSP and GEA Sec./Treas.



Griffin Lodge #1207 were welcomed into the Griffin/Spalding Chamber of Commerce

Griffin Lodge #1207 held a Flag Day Ceremony at Sun City.



Jesup Elks Lodge #2133 donated \$2,500 to the Wayne County 4H Club to help send 38 students to Summer Camp at Rock Eagle. L-R: Mark Miller, Joe Jerardi, Donna Harris (accepting the check from Jesup Lodge), Stuart Jahnig, Ben Toombs & Zach Gorse



Jesup Elks Lodge #2133 members Stewart Jahnig and Ben Toombs served up refreshments for the people attending Memorial Day ceremonies at the Jesup Veterans Memorial Wall in Jesup. There were over 100 attendees to the program.



Above left, **Lake Oconee Lodge #2849**, in a joint venture with Neighbors Helping Neighbors, members built a wheelchair ramp for an elderly lady that needed it and NHN paid for the materials. L-R: Bob Dazey, Chuck Brake, Bob Colie, PSP, John Stewart, Greg Abbott, Bill Ashburn, John White, ER and Wayne Palmer. Right, **Lake Oconee Lodge #2849** used the Beacon and Spotlight grants to donate \$5,000 to Beds for Kids and some of the ladies used the remaining \$1,000 to purchase material and make tie blankets for the beds. L-R: Sandra & John White, ER, Bobby Carter, PSP, NHN Director Allyn Rippin, Bill Lewis, PSP, Pete Demkow and Stu Scherer, Beds for Kids Director. **Lake Oconee Lodge** also donated \$3,000 to Second Harvest Food Distribution in July. Members also hosted a “Christmas in July” at the Ga War Veterans home. One of the residents that lives at the home (Richard Pieno) played Santa.



On August 28th **Lake Oconee Lodge #2849** passed a milestone by initiating 52 new members and going over 1,000 members. Also initiated into the order that evening was 97 year old Donald Phipps (pictured inset).



Lake Oconee Lodge #2849 gave \$9,000 (\$1,000 each) to 9 deserving seniors going to college in the fall. Pictured above are 6 of the scholarship winners with Lake Oconee Scholarship Chairman, Frank Rowan.



Marietta Lodge #1657 held a fish fry on Sept. 6th and GEA President Larry Pope and First Lady Ana were their guests. L-R: President Larry Pope, First Lady Ana, Nita Knighton, PSP, and Dan Tatum, PSP.



Marietta Lodge #1657 held their 6th annual Dunk Tank benefiting Families in Need at Christmas. Marietta Lodge known for the Small Lodge with Big Hearts raised \$3,100 for their needy families. Pictured (Sitting in the dunk tank are Jeff Tatum and Declan), Carlis Funes, Julie LoBean, Andy LoBean, Bill Anderson, Sheraine Hanning, Tim Perkins & Bill Perkins. Not pictured is Nita Knighton, PSP, and Chairman who was counting the money!!



Savannah Lodge #183 presented a Flag Day Program at the lodge on Flag Day. Pictured L-R: Cleve Burkhalter, Larry McDaniels, Charlie Hendricks, PSP, Steve Shirah and Gary Rauch



Toccoa Lodge #1820 - Toccoa-Stephens County Humane Shelter held Paint with a Twist at the Toccoa Lodge. Toccoa was pleased to provide a venue for this fundraiser for shelter animals.



Toccoa Lodge #1820 presented a check for \$2,000 from the Spotlight Grant to Lucy Davis for the Food to Kids Program. Pictured Stacey Simmons, Lucy Davis and Cyndi Russell.

Toccoa Lodge #1820 and Auxiliary also held their annual car show with proceeds to the Veterans Fund, raising over \$1,500.



Tyrone Lodge #1617 (formerly Union City #1617) honored their Most Valuable Student winners at a lodge meeting. Pictured with Sam Richmond, Treas./Scholarship Chair, far left and Steve Henderson, ER, far right, are Cora Betts, Kara Gibson, (Lodge & State winner), Kareem Gibson (Lodge & District winner). Kara & Kareem are twins.



Valdosta Lodge #728 held their annual Veterans luncheon on June 1st. Everyone enjoyed all that is involved and the Veterans were very appreciative! It was a great meal and they had 2 speakers, Chaplains from MAFB who did an excellent job! Thank you Veterans for your service.



Valdosta Lodge #728 shopped with the local Aidmore foster kids for school supplies. They had recent fundraisers and raised the \$1,800 dollars needed for 18 children. Thanks to Walmart for being patient and helping us check out through the garden center and Lynne Casey from the Aidmore office who held up in the heat at our table in the garden center. And of course all the volunteers!



Left, Valdosta Lodge #728 held a Flag Day Presentation. Above, Valdosta Lodge #728 made presentations to local high school seniors from Valdosta Elks Virginia Prince Memorial Scholarship Fund, to assist some outstanding seniors as they begin their college careers in the fall. Pictured far right, Bruce Hayden, PSP, SDGER & Mike Johnson with one of the students.

gin their college careers in the fall. Pictured far right, Bruce Hayden,



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

Georgia Elks Association Annual Meeting, June 13 & 14, 2025, Jekyll Island, Georgia

The 124th Annual Meeting of the Georgia Elks Association was called to order by President Dan Tatum at 9:00 A. M. on Friday, June 13th, 2025. The Colors were presented by the Jesup Police Department & the Pledge to the Flag was led by President Elect Larry Pope. President Tatum called on Chaplain Cyndi Russell for the Invocation.

President Tatum introduced the Grand Lodge Officers, State Officers & Past State Presidents in attendance. He then called on Secretary/Treasurer Tim Whalen for the roll call of Officers & Lodges. Officers answering roll call were Dan Tatum, Larry Pope, Johnathon Edwards, Charles Smith, Tim Whalen, Cliff Arden, Cyndi Russell, Brenda Sailors & Vance Rhodes. All Lodges were present for the meeting. A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from our previous meeting was made by Piker Penn, seconded by Cliff Arden. The motion was approved by the membership.

Reports

- President Tatum thanked the members for their support & hard work this year. It has been a successful year for programs & membership.
- President Elect Pope will deliver his remarks at tomorrow's meeting.
- Board Chair Nita Knighton announced that the Charity & Association Boards will meet this afternoon in the Cannon Point room beginning at 12:45 P. M.
- Special Deputy G. E. R. Bruce Hayden introduced our State Sponsor, Mike Smith, for his comments.
- P. N. P. Mike Smith thanked the Brunswick Lodge for the Low Country Boil they prepared on Thursday evening. He also looks forward to the Jesup Cook-Out tonight; truly Southern Hospitality at its best. He thanked Steve Petrie for his hard work on membership this year. Our E. N. F. giving has

Georgia in 16th place in the Nation. In regards to the Grand Lodge Convention, Mike urged delegates to vote NO on the Insurance proposal put forth by the Minnesota Elks. He further explained how to decrease your premiums by increasing the deductible amount on your Lodge.

- Aidmore C. E. O. Vickey Hale spoke on the children at the center. She said that every child has a story to tell. She spoke about "Evan", now in an Elk foster home, doing well & adapting to life. There are other similar stories to tell. Aidmore works because of a committed staff; one child at a time. We are transforming lives at Aidmore. Vickey introduced her staff present at the meeting & her husband. Also, the Elks Golf Fore Kids tournament will be held on October 3rd at the Hard Labor State Park. This year we will have District Coordinators to increase participation in the tournament.

Committees

- Membership - Steve Petrie: Georgia had a great year in membership growth. We began Zoom Meetings on a monthly basis to involve all Lodges in the process; keeping leaders involved. There is never a bad idea; try new things, get busy & have fun.
- Business Practices - Larry Pope: Larry thanked Jane Santee for her hard work on the Leadership Academy. We were honored to have David S. Doherty, Grand Lodge Judiciary Committee member, as our guest this year. He urged the Lodges to ask for help from the Business Practices committee when needed.
- V. A. V. S. - Maureen Manning: Homeless Veterans are a major problem in Georgia & across the entire United States. Maureen asked the Lodges to help in any way they can, providing for those who have served this country.
- E. N. F. - Brian Russell: All Lodges in Georgia met the G. E. R. per capita goal this year. Georgia contributed \$68,357.91 & got in return \$117,200.00 from the National Foundation, a ratio of 1.715. We currently have 67 Fidelity Club members in Georgia. The E. N. F. Golf Tournament raised \$10,003.00 for the Foundation. Fidelity Club pins were presented to President Tatum & the Toccoa Lodge.
- Grants - Larry Pope: 79 Grants were presented to 22 Georgia Lodges this year amounting to \$207,500.00. As of today, 22 Grants have been presented to Georgia Lodges, a total of \$53,000.00. The program is doing well.
- Hoop Shoot - Vance Rhodes: 14 Lodges participated in the program this year with 100% participation by the Lodges in reporting to the Grand Lodge. Griffin Reed, 8-9 girl, from the Dalton Lodge won in the Valdosta Regional & represented Georgia in Chicago at the National Finals. She & her 2 sisters will compete next year. District Directors are Bob Colie, NE; Randy Keener, NW & Charlie Watson, Southern. Vance hopes that more Lodges will have a program & compete this year.
- Soccer - Junior Roberson: The program is doing well but more participation is encouraged. Junior will assist in putting together a Shoot for your Lodge. State finals will be held in November on the Aidmore campus & a return to the Florida Youth Camp in January for the Regional. Mike Smith announced that the Grand Lodge has recently approved \$100,000.00 for Soccer.
- Leadership Academy - Jane Santee: Jane reported that we had 132 participants at the Academy this year. Training never stops. Please call Jane if you need help.

New Business

- Presentation of Budgets for 2025-2026 - Tobin Sexton: The Association & Charity budgets were presented for consideration by the membership. A vote will be taken at the Saturday morning session of the Association.

- Convention – Tim Whalen: This afternoon the Cocktail Party will begin at 2:00 P. M. along with the Dunk Tank & other athletic events. The Aidmore Auction will begin at 4:00 P. M. followed by the Jesup Cook-Out at 6:00 P. M. The Luau/Beach Party will begin at 7:30 P. M. at the Villas Convention Center.

Credentials:	NE District	30 Attendees	7 PERS	26 Voting Delegates	Total Lodges	22
	NW District	52 Attendees	21 PERS	49 Voting Delegates	Total Delegates	110
	South District	35 Attendees	17 PERS	35 Voting Delegates	Total Attendees	117
					P.N.P.	1

President Tatum called on Chaplain Russell to deliver the Benediction. The Annual Memorial Service will be held in the Convention Hall at 11:00 A. M. this morning. He then recessed the session until Saturday morning at 8:30 A. M.

The 124th Annual Meeting of the Georgia Elks Association was called to order by President Tatum at 8:30 A. M. on Saturday, June 14th, 2025. President Tatum introduced Stanley Santee for presentation of the Americanism Program. After presentation of the service flags we heard from our keynote speaker, Brigadier General John T. Gentry, Jr., U. S. Army, Retired. General Gentry gave an inspiring speech to those in attendance. The program closed with the playing of Taps & the singing of "God Bless the U. S. A."

Next was the Public Safety Officer of the Year program, chaired by Arthur Anderson. This years Public Safety winner was Fabian Rodriguez, an E. M. T., sponsored by the Marietta Elks Lodge. The Dedication of Service Award was presented to Lt. Matthew Locke, Dalton Police Department, sponsored by the Dalton Elks Lodge.

Youth Scholarship awards were presented to Elom Eskender, sponsored by the Atlanta-Northlake Lodge; Claire Jiang, sponsored by the Marietta Lodge & Evan Lin, sponsored by the Eatonton Lodge. Each student was awarded a \$2,000.00 check from the Georgia Elks Charities. Stan Jones is chairman of this committee.

Awards for Ritual Competition in the 11 O'Clock Toast Contest & the Tribute to the Flag contest were announced by Bruce Davis. The "Toast" contest winner was Junior Roberson, Dalton Elks Lodge & the "Tribute" winner was also Junior Roberson, Dalton Elks Lodge.

The V. A. V. S. presentations were made by Maureen Manning. This years winners were Jim Green & Bob Rubright, both serving the Dublin Veterans facility. Congratulations to both of these hard workers.

President Tatum excused the special presentation attendees & opened the conclusion of the G. E. A. business session. He called on Secretary/Treasurer Whalen for the roll calls. Officers present were Dan Tatum, Larry Pope, Johnathon Edwards, Charles Smith, Tim Whalen, Cliff Arden, Cyndi Russell, Bill Lewis, Brenda Sailors, Vance Rhodes & Lynda Lewis. Savannah Lodge 183 failed to answer the roll call at this session. All other Lodges were present.

Reports

President Elect Pope thanked President Tatum for his guidance this year. He looks forward to a great year for Georgia Elks & asks for your support.

Unfinished Business

- Approval of the 2025-2026 Budgets – Tobin Sexton: Tobin asked for any questions regarding the proposed budgets. Hearing none, he motioned for approval of the Association budget, seconded by Piker Penn. The motion was approved. Next, he motioned for approval of the Charity budget, seconded by Jane Santee. This motion was approved. Tobin thanked his committee on their work on this years budgets.

New Business

Nomination & Election of Officers

- Office of President Elect: Steve Petrie was nominated by Steven Spradley.
- Office of Secretary/Treasurer: Tim Whalen was nominated by Vance Rhodes.
- Charity Board 3 year: Nikki Thompson nominated by R. J. Fernandez
- Charity Board 3 year: Spud Bowen nominated by Bruce Hayden
- Charity Board 2 year: Cliff Arden nominated by Nita Knighton
- Association Board 4 year: Jeff Tatum nominated by Nita Knighton
- Association Board 4 year: Bethany Jackson nominated by Junior Roberson
- There being no opposition to the above nominations, all were elected by unanimous ballot.

Good of the Order

- Conventions – Tim Whalen: We had a great time at the Beach Party last night. Thanks to Cyndi Russell & her committee for this event. Gary Dorris, Valdosta Lodge was the winner of the 50/50 raffle last night. He received \$1,070.00. Thanks to all who purchased tickets for the raffle. The Installation & Awards Banquet will start at 6:00 P. M. tonight with Cocktails. Doors to the Banquet Hall will open at 6:30 P. M. & the dinner will be served at 7:00 P. M. Our fall meeting will be held in Albany on October 24th & 25th, 2025 & the spring meeting will be held in Macon, Georgia on February 27th & 28th, 2026. Registration forms will be posted on the gaelks.org website.
- Junior Roberson announced the candidacy of Brian Russell for President Elect for 2026/2027.

Resolutions

Vance Rhodes read the Resolutions for the session. He motioned to approve, seconded by Piker Penn. The Resolutions were approved as read.

There being no further business President Tatum called on the Jesup Police Department to retire the Colors. He then called on Chaplain Russell to deliver the Benediction. President Tatum then closed the session.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Whalen

Tim Whalen, Secretary/Treasurer
Georgia Elks Association

Credentials

NE District	27 Attendees	7 PERS	26 Voting Delegates
NW District	47 Attendees	20 PERS	45 Voting Delegates
South District	36 Attendees	21 PERS	36 Voting Delegates
Total Lodges	21		
Total Delegates	107		
Total Attendees	110		
P.N.P.	1		

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

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and Elks Aidmore

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Ken Crane, Exalted Ruler
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Cartersville, GA 30120
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 566
Cartersville, GA 30120
770-382-3557
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Monday and Thursday 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm
Open Select Saturday/Sunday

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www.daltonelks.org
706-278-6565

EATONTON ELKS LODGE #2549

135 Industrial Blvd, Eatonton, GA 31024
P.O. Box 4306, Eatonton, GA 31024
706-485-8606

Meets 3rd Monday @ 7 pm
Open:
Every other Tue: 6 pm - 8 pm
Thurs @ 6:30 pm: Trivia
Fri 6 pm - 9 pm: Full Menu



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, PSP
&
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

TYRONE LODGE # 1617

26 Carriage Oaks Dr.
Tyrone, GA 30290
Meeting Nights - 2nd & 4th Tues. 7:30 pm
Bingo Nights - Mon., Wed., Thurs. 7:15 pm
Sat. afternoon 2:15 pm
(Formerly known as Union City Elks 1617)

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



Gary Dorris won the 50/50 at the Luau.
L-R: Tim Whalen, PSP, Cyndi Russell
& Gary Dorris

Right,
Michelle
Langham
won the
Ladies
Auxiliary
raffle at the
Luau



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Stan Jones

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Warwick: 229-535-4261

sljones@planttel.net

Mike Bailey, PSP

Dalton Lodge #1267



Gary Robinette
Past State President

"Truth is the
foundation of all
honorable endeavors."

Member of Cartersville Elks
Lodge #1969

Beth & Bob Colie, PSP

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**Lake Oconee Lodge #2849 &
Georgia Elks Association**

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Liebengut Farms

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Beth Prestridge
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John Ingram
706-476-0122

Good Luck, Lady Trojans!
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Class of 2021 Class of 2024

Dan Tatum, PSP

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Georgia Elks Association**

Ronnie & Nita Knighton, PSP

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Junior Roberson, PSP

Soccer Shoot Chairman
Georgia Elks Association

(706) 847-7122 williarobersonjr@gmail.com



Above, ladies horseshoes at Jekyll and Nancy Strickland, PSP Auxiliary



Above, a few pics from the ENF Golf Tournament hosted by the Toccoa Lodge at the Apple Mountain Resort. \$9,000 was raised for ENF.



MEMBERSHIP *Matters!*

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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, President-Elect
Lake Oconee Lodge #2849
G.E.A. Membership Chairman