

GEORGIA *Elks* NEWS

October 2026

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Steve Petrie &
Family
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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2 Golf Fore Kids
October 23 & 24 GEA Fall Meeting in Valdosta
December 12 at 10:00 am, Aidmore Decorating Party
December 13 at 10:30 am, Aidmore Christmas Party
November 26 Thanksgiving
December 25 Christmas



Lynda Lewis
Editor
Ga Elks News

It's about time for some cooler weather and you know what that means, football and the GEA Fall Meeting. I don't know where the summer has gone but it has been a hot one for sure.

Thank you to last year's President Larry Pope & First Lady Ana Pope for a great job throughout the year and welcome to our new State President, Steve Petrie and First Lady Marguerite. Steve & Marguerite are on our October cover, along with Past State Presidents Stephen Spradley and Bill Lewis. Please give Steve your full support and let's make this another fantastic year!

If you missed Jekyll, some of the highlights are on pages 6-14, and if you missed Chicago, catch a few highlights on pages 17 & 18.

See you in Valdosta!

Steve Petrie

President 2026-2027 Georgia Elks Association



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Page 3

John Helgesen
EDITOR EMERITUS



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Steve Petrie
GEA President

Lodge Leaders, Fellow Elks, Friends New and Old,

A gallon of 87 octane is brushing against \$4.00. Diesel is over \$5.00. A “bundled value meal” at any of the ubiquitous drive-throughs (drives-through?) will run one between \$6.00 and \$9.00. In the face of all these modern-day price pressure points, there remain a couple of great values in our Order -

We have the Elks National Foundation Fidelity Club. This is a program by which Elks subscribe to donate to ENF on a monthly basis.

Consider the Ease: The ENF Fidelity Club recognizes automatic, regularly scheduled donations through your bank account or credit card. These donations occur monthly (minimum \$5).

It's Eco-Friendly: Save a tree and save time with paperless donations!

Talk about Convenience: No need to purchase stamps or mail a check. It takes just five minutes to sign up, and you're good to go!

Flexibility is built in: You can increase, modify or cancel your gift at any time.

Security is Assured: It's safe, reliable and it allows the ENF to spend less time on administration and more time on its charitable mission. Your donation goes further!

We also have Elks Aidmore “Eight for Aidmore.” This is a program hosted by our State Major Project in Conyers. Every benefit of the ENF Fidelity Club listed above applies as well to the Eight for Aidmore. And in taking part, we put action with intent. The funds we contribute go to enrich the lives of Georgia children – our future, and for those in Aidmore programs, our most vulnerable asset.

In all B.P.O.E. Programs, Participation Counts: Sure. The bottom line is a great thing and we are fortunate in our Order to have considerable charitable assets for which we compete. Did you know that participation, increased participation, in our Lodges, by our Lodge Members, and in our State improves our opportunity to bring funds home to Georgia? Did you know that Aidmore's capacity to raise funds enhances its ability to solicit corporate and government grants?

Our grass-roots efforts make so much possible. Please consider giving up two greasy, high-fat, over-salted lunches every month to increase the riches we may bestow on others!



Miriam Wheeler
President, Elks
Aidmore Auxiliary

I want to thank the Covington Elkadettes for hosting my workshop for state Auxiliary officers, committees, and local Auxiliary presidents.

Vickey Hale, CEO of Elks Aidmore spoke on several items about Aidmore. She shared information about the new adoption program Aidmore is starting.

We are very thankful for Aidmore letting us use their gym for our workshop. Remember to bring items for the Aidmore girls to our Fall Meeting. They need personal care items, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, soap, and tote bags. You can bring old suitcases also for them.

As we look forward to the Fall quarterly Auxiliaries meeting on October 23rd and 24th in Valdosta, Ga., I hope that you are excited about attending. Tickets are available for the pearl bracelet donated by Fletcher's Jewelry in Covington. The drawing will take place during the general business meeting on Saturday, October 24th.





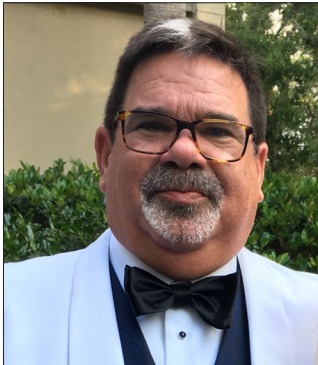
Mike Smith
PGER, PNP

CONGRATULATIONS GEORGIA !! What a great year the Georgia State Elks experienced last year under the leadership of "Past" State President Larry Pope, his wife Ana, and his entire team. As we are approaching Midyear we need to help State President Steve Petrie, and his wife Marguerite, along with a very qualified team to set new standards for the GEA. We need to give a special thanks to our Special Deputy Bruce Hayden, and his wife Lisa for all of their leadership and guidance. The membership continues to grow, which assists all lodges in success. The Elks National Foundation needs to continue your support as we received approximately twice back for what we submit to help with our projects.

Your participation in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has helped us achieve an amazing FIVE years in a row of growth and your association was a leader in the achievement. Well done GEA! We are on track for another record year and we need your help. For those who attended the National Convention in Chicago this year you noticed a big improvement in where your seating section was assigned. That is due to your membership growth. The GEA also received national recognition for your accomplishments. I look forward to watching your success this year and making the Georgia Elks Association Loud, Proud and Visible.

Sandra and I look forward to being with all of you who will be in Valdosta for the conference in October and renewing acquaintances. These gatherings are always enjoyable as we learn and share fellowship. Mark your calendars to attend and have FUN. It is an honor and pleasure to serve you and the GEA as your State Sponsor.

Michael F. (Mike) Smith, PGER.PNP
GEORGIA ELKS ASSOCIATION STATE SPONSOR



Bruce Hayden, PSP
Special Deputy
Past Grand Tiler

Coming out of our great District Deputy Clinics, I want to thank first the DDGER's for hosting such great meetings! Also, to the Lodges that were hosting the clinics, OUTSTANDING JOB! To those who attended, THANK YOU for helping make these meetings such a success. I feel that much was learned and hopefully each person took something back to their Lodge that will be meaningful in making your Lodge year successful. I can't stress enough the message below as we tend to sometimes forget what is the most important part of being an Elk.

When you think about Elkdom, I want everyone to remember 3 things that you see every time you go to a meeting and more importantly, when you were initiated into our great order. It seems that we sometimes let distractions, complications and feelings override these core beliefs and what it truly means to be an Elk.

The first thing is our flag, the flag of the United States of America. It is vital to being an Elk as we all swore to defend that flag and defend what it means. You see the flag is not just any symbol, it is THE symbol that unites us as American citizens. But more so, it has been defended in many conflicts of war, it has stood up to those who try to disrespect it. It is forever present in our Lodges. But let it serve as a reminder of our mission to defend and protect the countless veterans, living and

deceased who spent their lives defending its meaning for us. For without a veteran our flag would not be present to be seen in all its glory. It is our job to stand up and serve the veterans who have stood for us countless times.

Next is the Bible, representing our belief in God and all his wonder. It also should serve as the teachings in the Bible show us that we should love and respect everyone, even thine enemy in times of conflict and strife. It also represents how we should conduct ourselves as an Elk, defending each other and living by the teachings of the law. Use this symbol to exhibit dedication to how we should treat one another and what our true belief in the Bible is.

Finally, you have the Spreading Antlers of Protection, symbolized by the Elk head. This is where we come for reprieve of ridicule, looking for our fellow members to keep us safe in word, action and deed. This is our safe haven for all Elks across our Order to protect one another or bring comfort in times of need and sorrow. This is what binds us to be a true Elk and live by the Obligation we each took when we became a member. When all is wrong, when things seem to be going against you, when you are conflicted or clouded in judgement of a fellow Elk, go into your Lodge room and look at the antlers, let them be a remembrance of your initiation and the Obligation you took.

You see, by going back and reflecting on these three symbols of Elkdom, you can find strength and peace, comfort and joy, caring and compassion for one another. An Elk is NEVER forgotten, never forsaken. Use this inspiration to start again, fresh and anew, and take those whom you feel in conflict with you into the Lodge room and together work out those differences, as they should bring a place in every heart as to why we are joined together, and what it means to be an Elk! Set down the weapons and hatred and let these bring peace to one another for the betterment of Elkdom!

Always remember:

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

Jekyll Island

The 125th Georgia Elks Association Convention brought members together on beautiful Jekyll Island from June 11-13, 2026, for a memorable and highly successful event. The three-day gathering balanced crucial business meetings with heartfelt ceremonies, including a touching Memorial Service for departed Elks and Auxiliary members, and an inspirational Americanism program.

Highlighting the Elks' commitment to community and youth, the convention celebrated the achievements of young scholars, honored a national soccer champion, and recognized two dedicated public safety officers for their exceptional service. Generous contributions to Elks Aidmore were also celebrated, highlighting the order's ongoing philanthropic mission.

Fellowship and celebration took center stage during the afternoon parties, which were graciously hosted by outgoing President Larry Pope, incoming President Steve Petrie, outgoing Ladies President Joanne Bennett, and incoming Ladies President Miriam Wheeler. The landmark convention culminated in a celebratory installation and awards banquet, where outstanding achievements were honored and the new leadership team was officially installed to guide the association into the coming year.



Our three deserving most valuable scholars, were celebrated at Jekyll and their checks were presented by State Scholarship Chair Stan Jones, PSP. Top far left, Stan Jones, PSP with Emily Cai who was sponsored by the Toccoa Lodge #1820. Emily also won the Grand Lodge award for \$30,000 in addition to the scholarships from local lodges and the state. Top second from left, is Emily with her family there to support her. Top third photo over, is Madelyn Reardanz, sponsored by Covington Lodge #1806, with Stan Jones, PSP, being presented her check from the state, and last, top far right, are Madelyn Reardanz with her family that came to support her. (Not pictured Mason Gaylord that was unable to attend. Mason was sponsored by Savannah Lodge #183)



Bruce Hayden, PSP, PG Tiler, Special Deputy addressed the business session.



Jaiden Dobson, right, received a 1st place plaque from the Grand Lodge as the Elks National Soccer Shoot Champion in U16 Girls Soccer Competition. Left, is Junior Roberson, PSP/GEA State Soccer Chairman.



Arthur Anderson, center, announced the winner of the Public Safety Officer of the Year. Far Left, Public Safety Employee of the Year/Dedication of Service went to Dixie D. Tucker with the Cartersville Police Department. Far right, the Public Safety Officer of the Year went to Jason Glass, representing Valdosta Police Dept.



Bethany Jackson presented the Most Good Fortune tickets sold gifts to recipients L-R: Anthony Bizzard Jr., ER Augusta Lodge, Lori Lewis, Calhoun Lodge Bethany Jackson (Good Fortune Ticket Chair), and Jerry Holley, South District Deputy from Tifton Lodge.



Recognition for Aidmore contributions, L-R: Penny Hart, Laura Nichols, CFO Aidmore, Dr. Vickey Hale, CEO Aidmore, Stanley Santee, PSP, Aidmore Pres., Robert Foxworth, Steve Shirah, Bruce Hayden, PSP, Vance Rhodes, PSP, and Steve Petrie, at the time Pres.-Elect.

Americanism Program Presentation of Military Flags

An inspirational Americanism Program was presented by Stanley Santee, PSP. The presentation of military flags honored each branch of service and as the theme song of each branch was played those that served in that branch of the military stood up. The guest speakers for the Americanism Program were Jim Conine, Army (aka Abe Lincoln) and Ruth Conine, Army Retired.

Pictured to the right, are Ruth and Jim Conine, who both gave very inspirational speeches. The program ended with the singing and waving of flags by all to the music of Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA".



Stanley Santee, PSP, presented the Americanism Program.



POW/MIA Flag, Bob Colie, PSP, Retired Army Lieutenant Colonel, Lake Oconee Lodge #2849



Army Flag, Bill Lewis, PSP, Army Staff Sergeant, Lake Oconee Lodge 2849



Marine Flag, Piker Penn, Sergeant, Calhoun Lodge #1883



Navy Flag, Michael Aho, PER, Brunswick Lodge #691



Air Force Flag, Julie LoBean, Marietta Lodge #1657



Space Force Flag, Nikki Thompson, ER, Brunswick Lodge #691



Coast Guard Flag, Curtis Hart, Petty Officer 2nd Class, La-Grange Lodge #1084



L-R: Julie LoBean, Curtis Hart, Bob Colie, PSP, Michael Aho, Piker Penn, Nikki Thompson, ER, Bill Lewis, PSP

Georgia Elks Celebrate 125 Years

In addition to the incoming (Steve Petrie) and outgoing (Larry Pope) Presidents' parties, Brian Russell hosted a candidate party in the afternoon on Friday, June 12. Lots of good food and fellowship. Also, the Ladies incoming Auxiliary President, Miriam Wheeler and outgoing Auxiliary President, Joanne Bennett also held their parties. Immediately following the afternoon party on Friday, the annual Aidmore Auction was held in the conference center.

The Georgia Elks Association marked its historic 125 year milestone with a spectacular weekend of fellowship and community service. Lodges from all over Georgia united to honor decades of shared history and volunteerism. The grand highlight of the Friday evening celebration was an incredible "Elksby" dance, where members stepped back in time and packed the floor in dazzling roaring 20's attire. Thank you to Cyndi Russell and the Toccoa Lodge for hosting this awesome party to celebrate.



Thursday, June 11, President Larry Pope hosted his outgoing President's party. Pictured are L-R: Cliff Arden and GEA Pres. Larry Pope.



Outgoing Ladies Auxiliary President Joanne Bennett works getting food ready for her party.



Friday, June 12, Brian Russell hosted his candidate for President-Elect party. Picture on left is Brian Russell and on the right Cyndi Russell at work during the party.



Saturday, June 13, newly elected GEA incoming President, Steve Petrie hosted his President's party. Pictured are Steve Petrie on the left and Bill Lewis, PSP on the right.



Incoming Ladies Auxiliary President Miriam Wheeler



Ladies President Elect Kathy Carpenter with hubby Jimmy Carpenter



To the left, the Brunswick Lodge did a tasty Low Country Boil on Thursday evening. Pictured Front row L-R: Nikki Thompson, Elizabeth Bacca, Kathy Snell, Ruth Conine, and Brenda Sailors. Pictured Back row L-R: Patty Owens, Robert Elliott, Eddie Mobley and David Kemp.



Above, on Friday evening, the Jesup Lodge treated everyone to a picnic dinner under the tents, and below, a few party goers.



The Great Elksby in Pictures



Below, Best Dressed winner on the left, Kandy Knowles from Tifton with Cyndi Russell

More Great Elksby Photos



Installation & Awards Banquet



Pres. Larry Pope presented Michelle Langham with the Elk of the Year Award.



Pres. Larry Pope presented Jerry Holley from the Tifton Lodge with the ER of the Year Award.



Cliff Arden, Valdosta Lodge, presented Cyndi Russell from the Toccoa Lodge with the Secretary of the Year Award. Also pictured is Amber Henderson.



Pres. Larry Pope presented Julia Burton, ER of the Toccoa Lodge with the Lodge of the Year Award.



Stan Jones, PSP, far left, and Tim Whalen, PSP, far right presented April & Bob Reardon with the Past State President's Award. It was the first time a husband and wife received this award jointly.



Pres. Larry Pope presented Bill Lewis, PSP, with a President's Special Recognition Award for preservation of the Historical Room at Aidmore.



Mike Parker, ER from the Dalton Lodge, was the winner of the 11 O'Clock Toast and the Tribute to the Flag contests held earlier in the afternoon.



Aidmore Donations: Far left are Mickie Emmett, PSP Aux. and Deborah Johnson, PSP Aux. Middle photo is Dr. Vickey Hale, CEO Aidmore, addressing the attendees and far right Elks and Auxiliaries line up to give their donations for Aidmore. Accepting the donations were Auxiliary President, Joanne Bennett, Dr. Vickey Hale, and Stanley Santee, PSP.

The Installation



President Larry Pope gave his farewell speech



Secretary/Treasurer Tim Whalen, PSP, was escorted by Steven Spradley, PSP



Center, Julia Burton, Vice President NE, was escorted by left, Cyndi Barr and right, Teresa Laird



Mike Parker, Vice President NW, being escorted by his wife Pamela Parker



President-Elect Brian Russell was escorted by his wife Cyndi Russell



Above, the Past State Presidents escorted, to the right, GEA President Steve Petrie and his wife Marguerite



The swearing in of officers



Tim Whalen, PSP, Sec/Treas, Mike Parker, NW VP, Julia Burton, NE VP, Brian Russell, Pres.-Elect, Steve Petrie, GEA President, & Bob Colie, PSP



Mike Smith, PGER, presented GEA Pres. Steve Petrie with his President's gavel.



Larry Pope, PSP, presented President Petrie with his President's pin.



GEA President Steve Petrie gave his acceptance speech.



Larry Pope, PSP, received his PSP pen from his wife Ana Pope.



Larry Pope, PSP, presented his wife Ana with a gift for her support during his year as GEA President.



Also sworn in at the installation were Cyndi Russell, Mike Wyche, Piker Penn, Jane Santee and Yvonne Wyche as the Board of Directors.



Gary & Joanne Bennett, PSP Aux.



Dwaine Lovingood, PSP & Molly



Ana & Larry Pope, PSP



Lisa & Bruce Hayden, PSP



Charlie & Harriet Watson, PSP Aux.



Lake Oconee Lodge members in support of GEA President Steve Petrie



Bethany Jackson & Junior Roberson, PSP

Installation of Ladies Aidmore Auxiliary

Thank you to the Brunswick Elks Lodge and Auxiliary for hosting the State Auxiliary Installation luncheon on June 12th. Everything was beautiful and delicious! Congratulations to all the New Officers for 2026-2027 and the New State Auxiliary President Miriam Wheeler. Her symbol is the Cardinal and her theme is "Flying High with Aidmore".



Joanne Bennett received her PSP pin.



Joanne pinned the new State President Miriam Wheeler.



The gavel has passed. Congratulations Miriam.



Miriam received a gift from Dr. Vickey Hale, CEO Aidmore who conducted the Installation of officers assisted by Laura Nichols, CFO Aidmore.



New State Auxiliary President, Miriam Wheeler, escorted by her grandsons, Will & Luke Gregory.



Kathy Carpenter, President-Elect, escorted by Jimmy Carpenter.



Harriet Watson, PSP Aux., incoming South VP, escorted by Charlie Watson.



Miriam Wheeler-Witherspoon NE VP, escorted by Jeff Roudersbush.



Barbara Burnett, PSP Aux., standing in for Jamie Crook VP NW, was escorted by Greg Hickey.



Joanne Bennett, PSP Aux., Advisor & Recording Sec., escorted by Gary Bennett.



Stephanie West, Chaplain, escorted by her son Eric Sertain.



Cheryl Wilson, PSP Aux., Parliamentarian, escorted by Greg Hickey & Barbara Burnett, PSP Aux.



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



Peggy Rhodes, PSP Aux., Treasurer, escorted by Charlie Watson.



Dannie Anderson, Miriam Wheeler, Aux. Pres., Pam Stewart, PSP Aux., Sheila Platt, Mickie Emmitt, PSP Aux., & Deborah Johnson, PSP Aux.



Auxiliary PSP Luncheon: Harriet Watson, Joanne Bennett, Lisa Hayden, Ana Pope, Deborah Johnson, Cheryl Wilson, Mickie Emmett, Pam Stewart, Miriam Wheeler, Peggy Rhodes, Heather Hickey & Barbara Burnett

News from Aidmore



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

Elks Aidmore: Growing Our Impact, Celebrating Our Progress

Elks Aidmore continues to move forward with purpose—building on over 85 years of service while creating new opportunities to strengthen children, youth, and families across Georgia. Over the past several months, we have had much to celebrate, from national recognition to program expansion and new opportunities to engage our Elks family and community partners.

Five Stars at the Elks National Convention

Elks Aidmore was proud to be represented at the Elks National Convention, where our agency booth received another **5-Star Rating!** This recognition was especially meaningful because the booth provided an opportunity to share the Elks Aidmore story with Elks from across the country. Through photographs, information, an engaging video, and conversations, convention attendees learned more about the life-changing work being done in Georgia and the continued commitment of Georgia Elks to children and families.

The 5-Star Rating was more than recognition of a booth, it was recognition of a story worth telling and a mission that continues to make an impact.

Celebrating One Year of the Assessment Center

We are also celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Elks Aidmore Assessment Center. Since opening in June 2025, the six-bed Assessment Center has provided a safe and supportive environment for adolescent girls while their needs are assessed, and appropriate next steps are identified.

During this first year, approximately 24 young people have been served. Most importantly, we have seen youth successfully transition to appropriate placements and lower levels of care. The first year has reinforced the importance of providing young people with the right services, in the right environment, at the right time.

Adoption Services Are Coming to Elks Aidmore

Another exciting chapter is beginning with the expansion of Elks Aidmore into Adoption Services. After receiving approval earlier this year, we have now received our adoption contract and are preparing to officially launch this important service.

We invite each of you to celebrate with us at the **Adoption Services Ribbon Cutting on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.** This expansion allows Elks Aidmore to extend our continuum of care and help even more children move toward the permanency, stability, and lifelong connections they deserve.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in fostering or adopting, please ask them to reach out to us. We would be happy to help them extend their hearts and homes to a child in need.

Thank You to the Elks Aidmore Auxiliary

We extend a heartfelt thank you to the Elks Aidmore Auxiliaries for continuing to show up for our children and our agency in meaningful ways. As the new school year began, the Auxiliaries generously provided school supplies to help ensure our youth were prepared for a successful start. They also donated clothing, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and other much-needed items.

These acts of generosity may seem simple, but they make a tremendous difference in the daily lives of the young people we serve. We are grateful for the Auxiliaries' continued support, generosity, and commitment to the Elks Aidmore mission.

Golf Fore Kids – October 2

Finally, there is still time to support the Golf Fore Kids Charity Golf Tournament, scheduled for **October 2, 2026, at The Course at Hard Labor Creek in Rutledge, Georgia.** Whether you participate as a golfer, sponsor, donor, volunteer, or supporter, Golf Fore Kids is an opportunity to enjoy a great day while investing directly in the children, youth, and families served by Elks Aidmore.

From receiving national recognition to celebrating successful programs, expanding into adoption services, and experiencing the generosity of the Elks Aidmore Auxiliaries, there is tremendous momentum at Elks Aidmore. None of these accomplishments would be possible without the continued commitment and support of each of you.

Together, we are helping children, youth, and families heal their hearts, restore their hopes, and rebuild their lives.

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

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 16, 2026 to September 5, 2026.

MEMORIALS

MICHAEL BAILEY

Scotti & Todd Haney

KARLIN CARLSON

Don and Roberta Furlong

JACKIE GRIFFIS

Valdosta Elks Aidmore Auxiliary

LARRY WESTBURY

Georgia Past State Pres. Assoc.

BARBARA O'BRIEN

Dalton Elks Lodge

BRICK DONORS

We wish to recognize the following donors to the Elks Aidmore Brick Plaza. The Patrons have purchased bricks in their own names. Honor bricks can be purchased in recognition of another person and Memorial bricks are purchased in the name of deceased relatives and friends. We apologize should any names be omitted and if you will call such errors to our attention, we will gladly make an appropriate correction in the future. Donations are from to April 16, to Sept. 5, 2026.

IN HONOR

MIRIAM WHEELER

Miriam Whitherspoon Wheeler

MICHAEL L. BAILEY

Stan & Margie Jones



Pam Stewart, PSP Aux., presented Nancy Strickland, PSP Aux., with a gift.



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- Valdosta 229-244-3020
- Conyers 770-483-3535

Whether you're just beginning to explore adoption or you're ready to take the next step, our team is here to answer any questions.

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**Open your heart.
Change their story.**

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Building programs is our business.
Rebuilding lives is our passion.

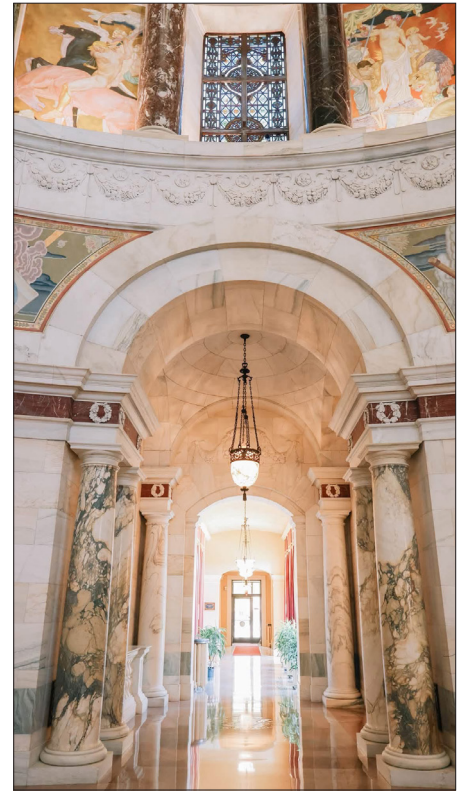
Highlights from the Grand Lodge Convention



Steve Petrie, GEA President, proudly carried the Georgia Flag during the Parade of Flags during the opening ceremony in Chicago.



A new Grand Exalted Ruler, Timothy F. Jaeger, was installed at the Chicago convention.



The Grand Lodge Headquarters in Chicago celebrating its 100th anniversary from when it was built.



Above top and directly above, the Georgia Delegation, made up of representatives from the 22 Lodges in Georgia, at the Chicago Elks National Convention in July.



Georgia's District Deputies Grand Exalted Rulers were sworn in. L-R: David Marrero, Augusta Lodge #205, Steve Hernley, LaGrange Lodge #1084, & Jerry Holley, Tifton Lodge # 1114.

Highlights from the Grand Lodge Convention



Aidmore won a 5 star award for its booth at the convention. Well deserved. Pictured Dr. Vickey Hale, CEO Aidmore and Steve Hernley, DDGER NW.



Tyrone Lodge #1617 presented the William A. King Award to the Ritual Contest Championships. Pictured Steve Henderson, ER, Tyrone Lodge far left.



Above, a group had time to enjoy Chicago by going on a boat tour.



On behalf of the Georgia Elks, GEA President Steve Petrie gave out gift cards to our State Sponsor Mike Smith, PGER and Past GL First Lady Sandra Smith.



Below Elks gather in the hospitality room to visit.



Left, Albany Lodge #713 members at the grand lodge headquarters building during the Chicago Grand Lodge Convention.

Right, is the Ritual Team that competed at the Grand Lodge in Chicago. Junior Roberson, PSP, Amber Henderson, R. J. Feeley, Isabell Pimentel, Michelle Langham, Mike Parker, Tiffany Cooper, Liz Gibson, David Gibson and Bruce Davis.



Meet the GEA President, Stephen J. Petrie

Stephen Petrie's story is a classic American tapestry. As sunrise broke over the mighty Cuyahoga River, in deepest Cleveland, Ohio, on the morning of February 17, 1958, entered Stephen J. Petrie, a journey marked by scenic beginnings, sharp turns, and a deep commitment to community.



Steve, on the far left, with his Mom, brother and sister

Steve enjoyed an idyllic childhood growing up along the shores of Lake Erie. Those early, tranquil days gave way to a high school experience straight out of *Lord of the Flies* - a trial by fire that built resilience and character. Steve says "It was a product of sheer terror of factions". From there, he transitioned into the quintessential ivy-covered collegiate life, grounding himself in tradition and education before stepping into the working world.

His career took him on a perilous and unpredictable professional path across the country, with high-stakes chapters in Texas, Florida, Ohio, and Georgia. Through life's twists and turns, including marriages and raising a family, Steve eventually found the anchor he didn't know he was missing.



Steve and Marguerite

On August 4, 2011, Steve was initiated into the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Lake Oconee Lodge #2849. Remarkably, the Elks was the first organization he had ever joined in his life. He eventually became Exalted Ruler at Lake Oconee, the Georgia Elks Association Membership Chairman, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, Georgia Elks Association NE District Vice President, Georgia Elks Association President-Elect, and finally where he is today as the President of the Georgia Elks Association.

It proved to be a perfect fit. Since taking his initiation obligation, Steve has had an absolute ball serving alongside great lodges, dedicated Elks, and most importantly incredible people. Looking back over his decades of experiences, Steve holds just one single regret: that the Order didn't find him sooner.



Left, Steve's adorable little grandson, Arthur James

Right, his children when they were young, L-R: Grace, John, Liza, and Will



**GEA FALL MEETING
VALDOSTA LODGE #728
2309 U.S. HIGHWAY 84 W
October 23 - 24, 2026**

Friday October 23rd

**All events at Valdosta Lodge
Dress for Friday is 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 24th

**Breakfast is on your own.
Dress is Casual for our 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 & 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; (cornhole, etc.) Mike Johnson
5:00 - 6:00	Meet/Greet President-Elect Candidates
7:00 - Until	Banquet and Dance

(Dress: Men Coat & Tie: Ladies-Dressy)

**BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA
SATURDAY OCTOBER 24, 2026
9:00 - 11:00 AM**

Call to Order	Steve Petrie, President
Presentation of Colors	Valdosta Lodge #728
Pledge to the Flag	Brian Russell, Pres.-Elect
Invocation	Laura Nichols, Chaplain
Welcome/Introduction to Valdosta	
ER Yvonne Wyche	Steve Petrie, President

**Georgia Elks Auxiliary Fall Meeting Schedule
Valdosta Elks Lodge #728
2309 US Hwy. 84 W
Valdosta, Georgia**

October 23 & 24, 2026

Friday, October 23
All Events at Valdosta Lodge: casual dress

Registration Desk Open	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Past State President's Luncheon	11:00 AM
Austin's Steak House	
2101 West Hill Ave.	
Valdosta, GA 31601	
Auxiliary Past President's Meeting	2:00 PM
Horseshoes	3:00 PM
Cocktails	6:00 - 7:00 PM
Dinner/Dance	7:00 - 11:00 PM

Saturday, October 24
Breakfast on your own. Dress casual for the meeting.

Credentials Desk Open	8:00 - 8:45 AM
General Business Meeting	9:00 - 11:30 AM
Lunch (on your own or at the Lodge)	
Cocktail Hour (Meet GEA candidates)	5:00 - 6:00 PM
Banquet/Dance	7:00 - 11:00 PM
Ladies - Dressy Attire, Men - Coat & Tie	

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA (continued)

Intro of Grand Lodge Officers Steve Petrie, Pres.
Mike Smith, PGER & State Sponsor
Bruce Hayden, SDGER & Past Grand Tiler
Tim Whalen, Past Grand Esquire &
GEA Secretary/Treasurer

Intro GEA Officers (Head Table) Steve Petrie, Pres.
Brian Russell, PDDGER, President-Elect
Vance Rhodes, PSP, Parliamentarian
Laura Nichols, Chaplain

Recognition of District VPs Steve Petrie, Pres.
Mike Parker, VP NW
Jula Burton, VP NE
RJ Fernandes, VP South

Recognition of Past State Presidents Steve Petrie, Pres.

Recognition of District Deputy GER Steve Petrie, Pres.
Steve Hernley, DDGER NW
David Marrero, DDGER NE
Jerry Holley, DDGER South

Roll Call
State Officers/Lodges Tim Whalen, PSP, Sec./Treas.
Minutes of Previous Session Tim Whalen, PSp, Sec./Treas.

Sickness & Distress Steve Petrie, Pres.

Introduction of State Sponsor Bruce Hayden, SDGER
Past Grand Tiler
Mike Smith, PGER

State Sponsor Remarks

Reports
President Steve Petrie
President-Elect Brian Russell
Chairman, GEA Board &
GEA Charity Board Junior Roberson, PSP
Aidmore Stanley Santee, PSP
DDGERs NW, NE, South Hernley, Marrero, Holley
District VPs NW, NE, South Parker, Burton, Fernandes

Reports of Committees (as needed/as requested)

Membership	Cyndi Russell
Leadership	Jane Santee, PDDGER
Business Practices	Cliff Arden, PDDGER
New Lodge Development	Bruce Hayden, SPDGER
Disaster Relief	Bill Lewis, PSP
Drug Awareness	R J Fernandes
Activities	Wendy Morris
Budget	Beth Colie
Convention	Tim Whalen, PSP
Government Relations	Tim Whalen, PSP
Insurance/Accident Prevention	Ned Thompson
Scholarships	Stan Jones, PSP
ENF	Brian Russell, Pres.-Elect
Elks Nat. Ser. Veterans	Daryl Chandler
Americanism	Nikki Thompson
Public Safety Officer	Authur Anderson
Memorial Service	Amber Henderson
Fundraising	Bethany Jackson, PDDGER
Grants	Michelle Langham
Hoop Shoot	Vance Rhodes, PSP
Soccer Shoot	Junior Roberson, PSP
Athletic Activities	Mike Johnson
Ritualistic	Bruce Davis
Credentials	Heather Hickey, PSP Aux.

Old Business
New Business
Good of the Order
Resolutions
Adjournment

Awards
Vance Rhodes, PSP
Steve Petrie, Pres.



Cyndi Russell
 864-247-5768
 864-886-8786
 Cyndilay@yahoo.com

Committee Reports

Membership

Building a Stronger Lodge Through Leadership and Engagement

A thriving lodge starts with the first impression. As members and leaders, we set the tone by warmly welcoming guests, encouraging engagement, and creating an atmosphere where everyone feels they belong. Consider organizing a welcome team and leading by example because every interaction matters.

Early engagement is key to retaining members. Building friendships, recognizing individual strengths, and involving new members in lodge activities helps create lasting connections and a stronger sense of Elksdom.

Our **“I Will” Commitment Program** encourages participation and service. Members who complete one of the five challenges can earn recognition from the lodge, while those who complete all five challenges will receive special recognition, including a framed certificate from Rick Gathen.

Remember, **what gets recognized gets repeated**. Proudly represent your lodge by wearing lodge apparel at meetings, community events, and volunteer activities. Visibility fosters pride and strengthens our identity in the community.

Most importantly, **people rarely leave organizations; they leave poor experiences**. Avoid negativity, welcome every guest, and ensure everyone feels comfortable and valued. Reflect on your first lodge visit and strive to make every new member's experience a positive one.

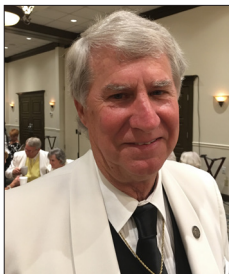
For **new and returning lodge leaders, consider the legacy** you want to leave. Focus on clear communication, approachability, developing future leaders, and serving others. Strong leadership is built on service, not authority.

Together, we can create a lodge experience that members are proud to be part of and excited to share with others.

“Membership isn't about numbers. It's about making sure the next generation gets the same friendships, scholarships, veteran's programs, and community service opportunities that changed our lives.”

As always call, text, message, send a carrier pigeon if you want to talk or have questions. I will ask Steve for answers. (LOL)

Cyndi Russell
 864-247-5768



**Stan Jones, PSP
 Scholarship
 Chairman**

Scholarships

The Elks Of Georgia are once again ready and willing to help our High School Seniors apply for in excess of over \$2,500,000.00 in College Scholarships. Our Most Valuable Student Scholarship opened on August 1, 2026, with a deadline of November 19, 2026. All Seniors are eligible, if in school, home schooled, or are in dual enrollment with a college. When applying for the MVS Scholarship you are applying for your local Lodge Scholarship, District Awards, State Awards, as well as one of 500 Scholarships Awarded by the Elks National Foundation. To apply go to enf.elks.org/MVS. Again this year we will have Cyndi Russell handling the NE District, Jack McPhillips handling the NW District, and Stan Jones handling the Southern District.

Our Legacy Scholarships are for the children and grandchildren of Elks who have been a member for at least two years. The State of Georgia now receives 6 \$1500.00 scholarships per year for four years. To apply go to enf.elks.org/leg. The application date opened Sept. 1, 2026 and has a deadline of Feb 1, 2027.

A very important Scholarship is for the children of disabled or deceased Elks. The amount is up to \$5000.00 per year for up to four years. This is for undergraduate students only. To apply contact the Elks National Foundation in Chicago, Illinois. Or call 773-755-4732.

The Georgia Elks Association Charities Boska Nursing Scholarship should be on line by the time you receive this Fall addition of the Georgia Elks Association News. Yes, we had a computer problem. To apply go to the Georgia Elks website at: www.gaelks.org

For those of you that have reached the age of 72 ½ and have an IRA, when it comes to your Mandatory Distribution it would be a nice gesture on your part to donate to the Elks, Our Major State Project Elks Aidmore Children's Center, The Elks National Foundation, or The Georgia Elks Association Charities Trust fund and earmark for the Boska Nursing Scholarship. This donation has to be made directly to the Charity from the institution holding your IRA funds for it to be non taxable to you.



Committee Reports continued

Hoop Shoot

Season Kickoff

The Georgia Elks Hoop Shoot is back for another exciting year! We're looking forward to increased Lodge participation and a season filled with enthusiasm, community engagement, and support for our youth.

Last season, Georgia did not reach 100% Lodge participation. Every Lodge is required to submit a participation report, even if a local shoot is not held. Completing this form is essential to supporting our youth programs, and we appreciate your commitment to this effort.

Why Your Participation Matters

Your Lodge plays a vital role in shaping the lives of young people. Through the Hoop Shoot, kids learn:

- integrity — competing honestly and fairly
- respect — handling both victory and defeat with dignity
- responsibility — owning their actions on and off the court

These lessons build stronger, more confident individuals whose growth extends far beyond the gym.

Let's make this the year your Lodge reaches deeper into the community and showcases the positive impact the Elks have on our children's futures.

Dates & Information

State and district competition dates, along with all updates, will be posted on the Georgia Elks website as they become available:

www.gaelks.org → Activities > GEA Activities

Please coordinate your Lodge's local competition dates accordingly.

We're Here to Support You

If your Lodge needs help getting started or has questions, the Hoop Shoot Committee is ready to assist every step of the way. Reach out anytime — we're committed to making this season our best yet.

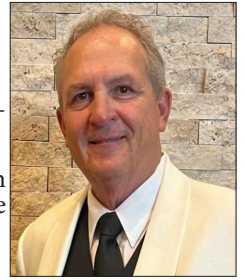
News From the Court

A heartfelt thank you to Randy Keener for five years of dedicated service as NW District Director. As he steps down, we proudly welcome Mike Green of the Dalton Lodge into the role.

2026–2027 GEA Hoop Shoot Directors

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

Fraternally,
Vance



**Vance Rhodes,
PSP
Hoop Shoot
Chairman**



News from Lodges around the State



Albany Lodge #713 Marilyn Fowler, left and Harriet Watson, PSP Aux., decorated Starbucks in Target for Thursday's Coffee & Muffins with the Veterans which is sponsored by the American Legion Post 30.



Albany Lodge #713 held a hat contest at the Kentucky Derby Party. L-R: Lucille Lott, Candy Parks, Rani Bailey, Sharon Whaley, Cathy Majors, Trish Davis, Jo Carol Lott, April Reardon, Harriet Watson, PSP Aux., Mary Binns, Debbie Dougherty, Maybeth Skipper, and Beverly Marley. Jo Carol Lott was the winner.

News from Lodges around the State



Augusta Lodge #205 served the Georgia War Veteran's Home their lunch on D Day, Saturday, June 6th.



Brunswick Lodge #691's Auxiliary members are shown above with items collected for Aidmore. Pictured are: Teresa Weese, Nancy Strickland, PSP Aux., Christo Hickey, Heather Hickey, PSP Aux., Lisa Sims, Ruth Conine & Greg Hickey.



Above top & directly above, Dalton Lodge #1267 hosted its annual youth banquet and honored 24 local kids with scholarships, Americanism essay awards and recognition for Hoop Shoot excellence. Over \$24,000 was awarded to these children in recognition of academic achievements.

Pictured are the awesome group of kids that received checks, and Edward Wilbanks (Hoop Shoot Champion), his parents and grandparents.



Eatonton Lodge #2549 - On July 14th, members of the Eatonton Lodge visited the Backpack Ministry at Putnam Christian outreach and presented a check for \$4,000. This money will help fill bags of nutritious food to be given to Putnam County students from the primary level to high school.



Lake Oconee Lodge #2849 gave out 9 Scholarships (\$18,000 total) to students in Greene County High School, Gatewood School and Lake Oconee Academy. Far left, Center, is Frank Rowan, LO Scholarship Chair; Middle, scholarship committee member Jon Dill with Greene County student; and far right, the Gatewood recipient.

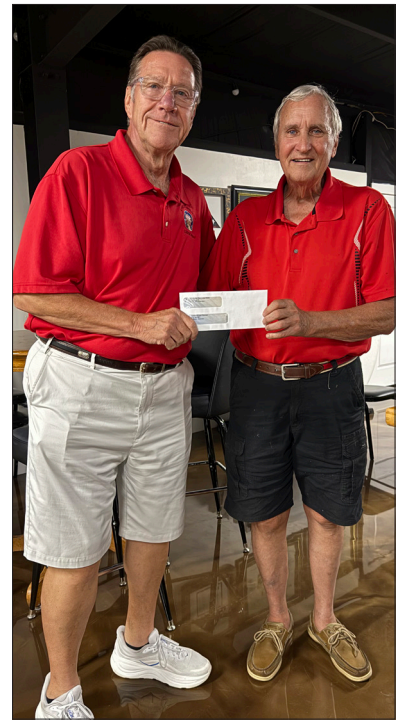


Lake Oconee Lodge #2849 sponsored the food that was given out at the Second Harvest food distribution in July. Lake Oconee has had the month of July for a number of years as its month to sponsor. The “Red Shirts” as they are called volunteer every month of the year.

Lake Oconee Lodge #2849 Chuck Wagon went to the Ga War Veteran’s home to grill hamburgers and brats for the veterans. Pictured L-R: Chuck Brake, ER, Bill Lewis, PSP, and Marion Freeman. Lake Oconee goes to the home once a month and takes treats, plays bingo or serves lunch.



Lake Oconee Lodge #2849 Auxiliary (LOLA) donated bookbags and school supplies to the 26 girls at Aidmore. The bags were filled with water bottles, notebook paper, composition books, pencil pouches, crayons, colored pencils, markers, pencils, scientific calculators and other classroom necessities. A special thank you to Darcy Stewart (pictured above with Emily Milligan to Darcy's left) who drove out to Conyers to deliver the supplies to Aidmore so they would reach the girls in time for the beginning of school. Thank you to the LOLAs and Lake Oconee Elks who donated supplies.

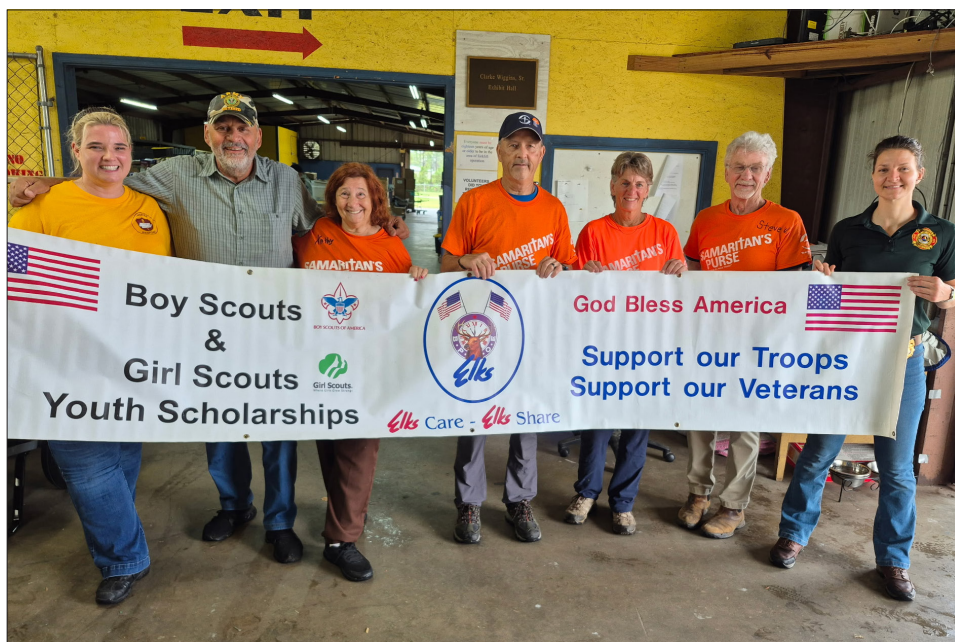


Lake Oconee Lodge #2849 donated \$3500 to Putnam Christian Outreach. ER Chuck Brake presented the check to the Director, Rex Corlett on Aug. 18.



Savannah Lodge #183 held their Flag Day Ceremony on Tuesday, June 9 before the lodge meeting. Samuel Currie, Chatham Co. Veteran of the Year for 2025-26 and Chief Master Sergeant USAF Retired, was the guest speaker. He presented the history of our Flag from its adoption by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777, and its evolution to present day as we commemorate 250 years.





Savannah Lodge #183 recently donated essential supplies, including clothing, bedding and kitchenware to Brantley County in support of those affected by the south Georgia wildfires. According to local authorities, the wildfire burned over 22,500 acres and destroyed 110 homes. Pictured is Al Deutsch, ER with officials from the City of Brunswick Emergency Management, along with volunteers from Samaritan's Purse.



Savannah Lodge #183 recently presented Mason Gaylord with a Ga Elks Assoc. Southern District Scholarship check on June 23rd.



The Tifton Lodge #1114 held a Christmas in July Celebration on July 25, 2026. Their Christmas spirit raised 320 pounds of non-perishable food which were donated to a local food bank. The next day, they provided a meal and goody bags for some of the community's homeless population. The Christmas Spirit is alive in Tifton!

Pictured above, Feeding the Homeless, Anthony Fallin, Carrey King, Amanda Gabel, Mike Reader, Missy Lingefelt, Susie Raeder, Lori King, Deborah Ruffin, Carol Owens, Ron Ruffin.

Pictured above, Unloading food, Lonnie Lewis, worker at Second Harvest Food Bank.



Toccoa Lodge #1820 - ER Julia Burton, far left, presented the Beacon Grant to Camp Fire Toccoa staff. the lodge was happy to sponsor several campers during the summer.



Toccoa Lodge #1820 held their annual Veterans Car Show & the profits went to support local Veterans.



Toccoa Lodge #1820 - Julia Burton, ER, right, is with Emily Cai. The lodge sponsored Emily who was awarded a \$30,000 MVS scholarship. Emily also attended Jekyll with her family.



Valdosta Lodge #728 donated \$1860 worth of items for the Firefighters of South Georgia on April 28th.



Auxiliary of Valdosta Lodge #728 put together a couple of boxes of needed items and sent to a female veteran they found on the Hero.com website. Pictured are Laurie Davis, Debbie Barrett, Connie Etheridge, Cheryl Goodell, Joanne Bennett, PSP Aux., and Pat Morgan. Not pictured Deborah Johnson, PSP Aux.



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

The Georgia Elks Association convened for its 125th Annual Convention on Friday, June 12, 2026 at the Villas by the Sea Convention Center, President Larry Pope presiding. President Pope called on the Brunswick Elks Lodge #691 Color Guard for presentation of the Colors. President Elect Steve Petrie led the Pledge to the Flag. Chaplain Mike Johnson then delivered the morning Invocation.

President Pope introduced the Grand Lodge officers present; Mike Smith, PNP; Bruce Hayden, SDGER; Bethany Jackson, DDGER NW & Brenda Sailors, DDGER South. Ed Whitcomb, DDGER NE was absent. President Pope then introduced the GEA Officers: Steve Petrie, President Elect; David Marrero, VP NE; Bob Reardon, VP South; Tim Whalen, Secretry/Treasurer; Vance Rhodes, Parliamentarian; Cliff Arden, Sergeant at Arms; Brenda Sailors, Tiler; Bill Lewis, Historian & Lynda Lewis, Editor Georgia Elks News. Steve Henderson, VP NW was absent. President Pope then recognized the Past Presidents of the Association.

Secretary Whalen conducted the roll call for the Association Officers & the Lodges. Absent Lodges were Tyrone Lodge #1617 & Eatonton Lodge #2549. Piker Penn made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the spring meeting, motion seconded by Steve Shirah. The motion was approved by the membership.

Sickness & Distress

Larry Pope & his family, John Zeigler, Junior Roberson's brother, Dan Tatum, Stanley & Brenda Rosenberg, Robert Foxworth, Roy & Dixie Spiker, Steve Manning, Kat Whitcomb, all cancer victims & all service men & women were remembered.

Reports

- President Pope – no report
- President Elect Petrie – no report
- SDGER Bruce Hayden – Bruce commented on the great registration numbers for the convention. He also highlighted Georgia's increase in membership for the year. LaVerne Altman was featured in the Grand Lodge newsletter recently. Bruce then introduced our State Sponsor, Mike Smith for comments.
- PNP Mike Smith – Mike said it was great to be back in Georgia. Our membership is 21st in the Nation this year. Mike recognized our activities with children & Veterans. There will be no controversial votes at the Grand Lodge convention this year. The convention will be the best one yet.
- Secretary Tim Whalen – Tim gave a convention report & highlighted the activities for the afternoon.
- Aidmore CEO Vickey Hale – Aidmore provides Hope & Healing to our residents. We currently service 251 children across the state. All 14 regions of the state are served by Aidmore. 73 children have been emancipated, adopted or reunited with their parents this year. Golf 4 Kids tournament will be held on October 2 at the Hard Labor State Park golf course. Vickey recognized Bethany Jackson & Laura Nichols as Aidmore employees. Aidmore helps children "one at a time".
- Aidmore President Stanley Santee – The \$100.00 endowment program has raised \$6,600.00 for Aidmore so far. Please participate in this important program.

Committee Reports

- Membership – Steve Petrie: Steve introduced the incoming chairman, Cyndi Russell. Cyndi said it was a "looking ahead, learning process" so far. She told the members to watch out for social media posts, they can be dangerous & offensive.
- Drug Awareness – Steve Petrie: R. J. Fernandez was introduced as the new Drug Awareness chairman. He will be flying to Washington, D. C. later today as an "Honor Flight" escort.
- Business Practices – Cliff Arden: Cliff serves as state chairman, assisted by district chairs Bob Colie, NE & Ned Thompson, NW. The committee can assist with questions on gaming machines, kitchen & bar problems, etc. They will find an answer for you if you call.
- ENF – Brian Russell: Georgia is #10 Nation-Wide in giving. We receive \$1.71 for every dollar contributed. Griffin Lodge was #1 in Georgia for giving this last year. The ENF Golf Tournament collected \$10,700.00 for the Foundation this past tournament. The ENF grants to Georgia help to fund our charitable projects each year.
- Good Fortune Shoot-Off – Bethany Jackson: The Shoot-Off collected \$28,400.00 this year, a profit of \$13,400.00 for Georgia Elks Charities. District winners for ticket sales were Jerry Holley, South; Anthony Bizzard, NE & Lori Lewis, NW.
- Grants – Michelle Langham: we currently have 4 Lodges ineligible for grants this year. Please apply early & take advantage of this great opportunity to help your local communities.
- Hoop Shoot – Vance Rhodes: We had 14 Lodges compete in Hoop Shoot last year. 24 Elk volunteers helped at the state competition. The dedication of volunteers helps keep this program alive. The regional competition was held in Valdosta. Georgia had a regional winner, Edward Wilbanks from Dalton, who finished 3rd in the Nation in Chicago.
- Leadership – Jane Santee: Jane thanked Griffin, Eatonton & Tifton for hosting the Leadership Seminars this year. She announced that a Leadership Training newsletter will be published monthly starting in July & distributed by email.

Old Business

There was no old business for the Association to consider.

New Business

- R. J. Fernandez was installed as VP Southern District by Mike Smith, PNP
- Beth Colie presented the proposed Association & Charity budgets for 2026-2027. These budgets will be brought to a vote for approval at the Saturday session of this meeting.

Credentials

<u>Northeast</u>	
Attendees	34
PERs	09
Delegates	27

<u>Northwest</u>	
Attendees	46
PERs	21
Delegates	46

<u>Southern</u>	
Attendees	44
PERs	23
Delegates	39

Total Lodges	20
Total Delegates	112
Total Attendees	124
State Sponsor	01
Total Attendance	125

Announcements

- The Aidmore Auction will be held this afternoon at 4 pm.
- Bob Colie, Area 3 Grand Lodge Government Relations member thanked the Lodges for 100% reporting this past year.
- The Ritual contests will be held at 2 pm this afternoon in the Fitzgerald room.

This session of the Association meeting will now adjourn for the Memorial Service & will reconvene at 8:30 am tomorrow morning.

The Georgia Elks Association reconvened on Saturday, June 13, 2026, called to order by President Larry Pope. President Pope turned the program over to Stanley Santee, chairman of the Americanism committee. The speaker for this year's program was Jim Conine, U. S. Army Veteran, performing as Abraham Lincoln. Our Youth Scholarship winners followed the Americanism program. Stan Jones presented scholarship checks to Madelyn Reardanz & Emily Cai, the two students who attended the program. Mason Gaylord, also a winner, was unable to attend. The Public Safety Officer of the Year award was presented to Jason Glass, representing the Valdosta Police Department. The Dedication Plaque was presented to Dixie Tucker, an officer from the Cartersville Police Department. Arthur Anderson made the presentations to these two officers. Junior Roberson presented a National winner in the Soccer Shoot-Off contest. She is Jaiden Dobson from Calhoun. Bruce Davis announced the winners for the Eleven o'clock Toast Contest & the Tribute to the Flag contest. Both contests were won by Mike Parker, E. R. from Dalton. Recognition was given to donors for the Aidmore endowment program. Vickey Hale, Stanley Santee, Laura Nichols & Robert Foxworth congratulated those who have participated in this program. Vickey announced the Aidmore Auction collected \$12,069.00 this year.

Following these programs, the Association reconvened for the conclusion of the business session. President Pope called on Secretary Whalen for roll call of officers & the Lodges. Under officer roll call, all were present except for NW VP Steve Henderson. All Lodges were present excepting Tyrone Lodge #1617.

President Pope recognized the appointed officers for the 2026-2027 Association year. They will be Lynda Lewis, editor of the Georgia Elks News; Vance Rhodes, Parliamentarian; Cliff Arden, Sergeant at Arms; Laura Nichols, Chaplain; Bill Lewis, Historian & Christo Hickey, Tiler.

Junior Roberson gave his report as Chairman of the Board for the Association & Georgia Elks Charities.

Old Business

- Beth Colie, chairman of the Budget committee, made a motion to approve the Association budget as submitted, motion seconded by Piker Penn. The budget was approved by the membership.

New Business

- Junior Roberson nominated Brian Russell for the office of President Elect for 2026-2027. There were no other nominations & Secretary Whalen cast a single ballot electing Brian to the office. Piker Penn nominated Tim Whalen for the office of Secretary/Treasurer. For the Association Board of Directors At Large seats, Cyndi Russell was nominated to fill the unexpired term of Brian Russell as a two year member; Piker Penn & Mike Wyche were nominated to fill the two, four year terms. All were elected without opposition.
- Vance Rhodes presented a proposed By-Law amendment, amending Article 8-8.36, to change the name of the Technology Committee to the Communication Committee. Motion to approve made by Bob Colie, seconded by Robert Reardon. The amendment was approved

Good of the Order

- Curtis Hart announced Steve Hernley, LaGrange Elks Lodge #1084, as a candidate for President Elect, 2027-2028.
- The fall meeting of the Georgia Elks Association will be held at the Valdosta Elks Lodge #728 on October 23rd & 24th. The spring 2027 meeting location will be announced at a later date.

President Pope called on Parliamentarian Vance Rhodes to read the Resolutions. Jane Santee made a motion to approve, seconded by Piker Penn. The Resolutions were approved as read.

President Pope adjourned the meeting of the Georgia Elks Association and called into session the Georgia Elks Charity meeting.

Old Business

Beth Colie presented the proposed Charity budget for 2026-2027. Beth made a motion to accept, seconded by Robert Foxworth. The budget was approved.

New Business

Two Three year positions on the Georgia Elks Charity Board were open. Nominations for those seats were made for Jane Santee & Yvonne Wyche. No further nominations were made & Jane & Yvonne were elected.

President Pope concluded this session & closed the meeting.

Fraternally,

Tim Whalen

Tim Whalen
Tim Whalen, Secretary
Georgia Elks Association
Georgia Elks Charities

Credentials:

<u>Northeast</u>	
Attendees	31
PERs	07
Delegates	25

<u>Northwest</u>	
Attendees	40
PERs	22
Delegates	40

<u>Southern</u>	
Attendees	45
PERs	23
Delegates	42

Total Lodges	20
Total Delegates	107
Total Attendees	116
State Sponsor	01
Total Attendance	117

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 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
Lodge Open Tues., Wed., & Fri. at 5:00 pm
Sports Bar is open for games of Pool or Darts
Wednesday & Friday Night Dinners 6:00 pm
FISH FRY every 3rd Friday 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
JOIN THE ELKS FOR "FIRST FRIDAY"

CALHOUN LODGE #1883

Great Golf Course! 18 Holes
Elks Rates: \$24 weekly/\$29 weekends
Bingo Thursday night
doors open 6:00pm- start play 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: 1715 West Ave.
Cartersville, GA 30120
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 566
Cartersville, GA 30120
Phone: 770-382-3557
Meetings: 1st & 3rd Thursday at 8:00 pm
(Dinner at 7:00 pm)
Open: Monday and Thursday 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm



Covington Lodge No. 1806

BENEVOLENT & PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS
135 Crowell Road
Covington, Georgia

P.O. Box 587
Covington, GA 30015

770-787-9499

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

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)

TIFTON LODGE #1114

422 Victory Drive N
Tifton, GA 31794
www.TiftonElks.org
Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 7 pm
Lounge/Grill open Wed.-Sat. 5-10 pm
Entertainment every Fri. & Sat.

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

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 Kennedy, ER
Atlanta/Northlake 78

Mainstreet Guns & Range
678-245-2164

Playswithfire@bellsouth.net



Bill Lewis, PSP
&
Lynda Lewis

Lake Oconee Lodge #2849

770-337-8010
blewiselk2849@gmail.com

Sponsors Directory

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Ana Pope & Larry Pope, PSP

Valdosta Lodge #728

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Warwick, GA 31796

Stan Jones

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

sljones@planttel.net

Dwaine Lovingood, PSP
Liebengut Farms

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

mollyn998@comcast.net

Linda & Gary Robinette, PSP



Members of Cartersville Elks
Lodge #1969

Beth & Bob Colie, PSP

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

Mike & Sandy Langan

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

PEGGY HOLMES REALTY, INC.

2004 South Dixie Hwy.
Dalton, GA 30720

Peggy Holmes
Broker GRI-CRS
Million Dollar Club
Life Member
Hud Specialist

Bus. 706-278-5000
Res. 706-422-8155
Fax. 706-226-9194
Bus. 706-277-5000

Below, the NE District Deputy Clinic was held on August 1st at the Lake Oconee Lodge. David Marrero, from the Augusta Lodge, below far left, is the current NE DDGER. He held a most informative clinic.





Elks Aidmore, Inc.
2394 Morrison Rd.
Conyers, GA 30094

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Permit #47



The ENF Golf
Tourment was
held on
May 16, 2026
at Calhoun
Lodge #1883
in Calhoun,
Georgia



**GOLF FORE KIDS
OCTOBER 2, 2026**

Join Us!



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026



**THE CREEK
AT HARD LABOR**

1400 Knox Chapel Road
Social Circle, GA 30025



**REGISTRATION
8:00 A.M.**

**SHOTGUN START
9:00 A.M.**



**SPACE IS LIMITED.
REGISTER EARLY TO
RESERVE YOUR TEAM!**



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