



**Larry Pope
President
Georgia Elks
Association**



**Steve Petrie
President-Elect
Georgia Elks
Association**



**Joanne Bennett
President
Elks Aidmore
Auxiliary**



**Miriam Wheeler
President-Elect
Elks Aidmore
Auxiliary**

GEORGIA ELKS ASSOCIATION 125th Annual Convention Jekyll Island, Georgia June 11-13, 2026

Officers of the Georgia Elks Association 2025-2026

- Larry Pope, President**
- Steve Petrie, President-Elect**
- Steve Henderson, VP NW**
- David Marrero, VP NE**
- Bob Reardon, VP South**
- Tim Whalen, Secretary/Treasurer, Past Grand Esquire**
- Cliff Arden, Sergeant of Arms**
- Mike Johnson, Chaplain**
- Bill Lewis, PSP, Historian**
- Brenda Sailors, Tiler**
- Vance Rhodes, PSP, Parliamentarian**
- Lynda Lewis, Photographer, Ga Elks News**
- Junior Roberson, PSP, Chairman, Board of Directors**

Grand Lodge Officers 2025-2026

- Mike Smith, PGER, PNP, State Sponsor**
- Bruce Hayden, SDGER, Past Grand Tiler**
- Ed Whitcomb, DDGER, NE**
- Bethany Jackson, DDGER, NW**
- Brenda Sailors, DDGER South**

Georgia Elks Aidmore Auxiliary Officers 2025-2026

- Joanne Bennett, President**
- Miriam Wheeler, President-Elect**
- Pamila Parker, Vice President, NW**
- Mickie Emmett, PSP Aux., Vice President, NE**
- Dannie Anderson, Vice President, South**
- Deborah Johnson, PSP Aux., Corresponding Secretary**
- Pam Stewart, PSP Aux., Recording Secretary**
- Peggy Rhodes, PSP Aux., Treasurer**
- Harriet Watson, PSP Aux., Parliamentarian**
- Miriam Witherspoon-Wheeler, Chaplain**
- Barbara Burnett, PSP Aux., Advisor**

**Schedule of Events
Georgia Elks Association
125th Annual Convention
June 11-13, 2026**

Thursday, June 11, 2026 (Dress Casual)

10:30 - 3:30 Registration Desk Open, Villas Lobby
(**Auxiliary Activities**
(See Aux. Schedule on page 18)
3:00 - 5:00 President Larry Pope & Auxiliary President
Joanne Bennett Reception Under the Tents
6:00 Low Country Boil Under the Tents

Friday, June 12, 2026 (Dress - Business Casual for Mtgs)

8:00 - 9:30 GEA Credentials Desk Open
Villas Conference Center
9:00- 10:45 GEA Business Session
Villas Conference Center
11:00 -11:30 Elks & Auxiliary Memorial Service
Villas Conference Center
12:30 - 1:30 Secretaries Luncheon Place TBD
12:00- 12:45 GEA Past State Presidents Meeting
Cannon Point
12:45 - 1:15 GEA Charity Boarded Meeting
1:15 - 2:00 GEA Board Meeting
Cannon Point
1:00 - 4:00 Dunk Tank & Axe Throwing Contest
2:00 - 3:00 ER/Leading Knight Assoc. Meeting
Villas Conference Center
2:00 - 3:00 11 O'Clock Toast & Tribute to Flag
Cannon Point
2:00 - 3:00 DDGER Designate Meeting
SDGER's Villa
2:00 - 4:00 Candidates Cocktail Reception
Under the Tents
4:00 - 5:30 Aidmore Auction
Villas Conference Center
6:00 - 7:30 Picnic Dinner -Jesup Lodge Cooking
Villas - Stanton Building
7:30 - 11:00 The Great Elksby Dance (Roaring 20's Theme)
With Coastal Groove on Stage
9:30 Eleven O'Clock Toast, Larry Pope, President

Saturday, June 13, 2026 (Dress Business Casual for Mtgs)

(Dress for Banquet- Men Coat & Tie/Ladies Dressy)

8:00 - 9:00 GEA Credentials Desk Open
Villas Conference Center
8:30 -10:00 GEA Awards Program - Open to All
Villas Conference Center
Following Awards -12:00 GEA Business Session
Villas Conference Center
12:15 - 12:45 PER Association Mtg
Villas Conference Center
2:00 - 4:00 GEA President-Elect & Auxiliary President-Elect
Reception - Under the Tents
6:00 - 10:00 Banquet Dinner
Installation of Officers/ Awards Banquet

**GEA Annual Convention
Villas by the Sea Convention Center
Business Meeting Agenda
Friday, June 12, 2026**

Call to Order Larry Pope, President
Presentation of Colors Bunswick Lodge #691
Pledge to the Flag Steve Petrie, Pres.-Elect
Invocation Mike Johnson, Chaplain
Introduction of Grand Lodge Officers Larry Pope, President

Grand Lodge Officers

Mike Smith, PGER, PNP & State Sponsor
Bruce Hayden, SDGER, Past Grand Lodge Tiler
Ed Whitcomb, PDDGER, Current DDGER, Georgia NE
Bethany Jackson, PDDGER, Current DDGER, Georgia NW
Brenda Sailors, PDDGER, Current DDGER, Georgia South

Recognition of State Officers

GEA Vice Presidents Larry Pope, President
David Marrero, Northeast
Steve Henderson, Northwest
Bob Reardon, South

Tim Whalen, PSP, Secretary/Treasurer, Past Grand Esquire
Vance Rhodes, PSP, Parliamentarian
Cliff Arden, Sergeant at Arms
Brenda Sailors, Tiler
Bill Lewis, Historian
Lynda Lewis, Ga Elks News/Photographer

Recognition Past State

Presidents Larry Pope, Presidents
Roll Call of State Officers Tim Whalen, Secretary
Roll Call of Lodges Tim Whalen, Secretary
Minutes of Previous Session Tim Whalen, Secretary

Sickness & Distress

Larry Pope, President
Reports
President Larry Pope
President-Elect Steve Petrie
SDGER Bruce Hayden, PSP
State Sponsor Mike Smith, PGER
Sec./Treas. Convention Tim Whalen, PSP
CEO Aidmore Children's Center Dr. Vickey Hale
President, Aidmore Stanley Santee, PSP

Reports of Committees

Membership/Lapsation Steve Petrie, Pres.-Elect
Lodge Act./Drug Awareness Cyndi Russell
Business Practices Cliff Arden
ENF Brian Russell
Grants Michelle Langham
Hoop Shoot Vance Rhodes, PSP
Soccer Junior Roberson, PSP
Scholarships Stan Jones, PSP
DD Leadership Academy Jane Santee, PDDGER

New Business

Presentation 2026-2027 Budgets Beth Colie
Convention/Credentials Report Tim Whalen, PSP
Announcements Larry Pope, President
1. The Awards Program will be reconvened at 8:30 AM on Sat., June 13, 2026, with the Business Session to follow.
2. Immediately following the Memorial Service the PER Assoc. will meet - Villas Conference Center.

Benediction Mike Johnson, Chaplain

**Georgia Elks Association Annual Convention
Awards Program & Business Meeting Agenda
June 13, 2026 - 8:30 AM**

Spouses, Ladies, and Guests are invited to the Joint Meeting

Call to Order

Larry Pope, President

Special Programs & Awards

Americanism Program
Presentation of U.S. Military Flags
Announcement of Americanism Essay Winners
Guest Speakers, Jim Conine and Ruth Conine
Public Safety Officer of the Year
Youth Scholarship Awards
Ritual Awards
11 O'Clock Toast Contest
Tribute to the Flag Contest

Stanley Santee, PSP

Stanley Santee, PSP

Arthur Anderson

Stan Jones, PSP

Bruce Davis

Bruce Davis

Spouses, Ladies and Guest are Dismissed

Conclusion of the Business Meeting

Roll Call of State Officers
Roll Call of Lodges
Remarks of the President-Elect
Chairman, Board of Directors Report

Tim Whalen, PSP, Sec.
Tim Whalen, PSP, Sec
Steve Petrie, Pres. - Elect
Junior Roberson, PSP

Unfinished Business

Approval of the 2026-2027 Budgets

Beth Colie

New Business

Nominations & Elections of Officers for 2026-2027
Installation of Appointed Officers - Mike Smith, PGER

Good of the Order
Announcements for Future Elections

Reports of the Credentials Committee
Convention Resolution
Announcements
Retirement of the Colors
Benediction
Adjournment

Tim Whalen, PSP
Vance Rhodes, PSP
Larry Pope, President
Brunswick Lodge #691
Mike Johnson, Chaplain
Larry Pope, President



IMPORTANT NOTICE: All delegates must register with and be certified by the Credentials Committee to be entitled to participate in and vote on all matters that come before the Association at any business meeting session. The Credentials Desk will be open both Friday and Saturday mornings, opening one hour before the start of the business meeting and closing one half hour after the start of the business meeting. Please present your current membership card each morning for an accurate attendance count and to be eligible to vote. **P.E.R., please mark your credentials slip accordingly.**

**Georgia Elks Association
Annual Convention - Jekyll Island, Georgia**

**Installation and Awards Banquet
Jekyll Island Convention Center
Saturday, June 13, 2026**

(Dress: men coat & tie and ladies dressy)

Call to Order	Larry Pope, President
Invocation	Mike Johnson, Chaplain
Introductions	Larry Pope, President

Head Table, from the right

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

From the left

Chaplain, Mike Johnson and his wife Deborah, PSP
Ladies Auxiliary
Elks Aidmore State Auxiliary President Joanne Bennett,
and her husband Gary
Steve Petrie, President-Elect and his wife Marguerite
My Wife, First Lady Ana Pope

District Deputies

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

Vice Presidents

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

Introductions Auxiliary	Joanne Bennett, Pres.,Aux.
Ladies Horseshoe Awards	Nancy Strickland, PSPAux.
Farewell Remarks	
State Auxiliary President	Joanne Bennett, Pres. Aux.

Recognition of Appointed Officers

	Larry Pope, President
Vance Rhodes, Parliamentarian	
Cliff Arden, Sergeant of Arms	
Brenda Sailors, Tiler	
Bill Lewis, Historian	
Lynda Lewis, Ga Elks News/Photographer	

**Introduction of Past Grand Exalted Ruler,
Our State Sponsor**

Mike Smith, Past Grand Exalted Ruler	Bruce Hayden, SDGER Message for Georgia
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Awards Recognition

Past State President's Award	Nita Knighton, Pres. PSPs
Officer of the Year	Larry Pope, President
Lodge of the Year	Larry Pope, President
Elk of the Year	Larry Pope, President
Exalted Ruler of the Year	Larry Pope, President
Special Recognition Award	Larry Pope, President
Farewell Remarks, State President	Larry Pope
Installation of Elected Officers 2026-27	Mike Smith, PGER
Installation Prayer	Mike Johnson, Chaplain
Presentation of Presidents Pin & Gavel	Larry Pope
President's Acceptance Speech	Steve Petrie, President
Introduction of Auxiliary Pres.	Joanne Bennett, Pres.Aux
Presentation of PSP pin to Larry Pope	Ana Pope.
Completion of Business	Steve Petrie, President
Announcements	Steve Petrie, President
Eleven O'Clock Toast	Winner of Toast Contest
Benediction	Mike Johnson, Chaplain
Adjournment	Steve Petrie, President

**Georgia Elks Auxiliary
Annual Convention
June 11-13, 2026**

Thursday, June 11, 2026 (Casual dress)

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Registration Desk Open Villas Lobby
11:00 AM	Past State President's Luncheon Tortuga Jack's 201 Beachview Dr. N. Jekyll Island, GA
1:30 PM	Executive Board Meeting Villas Conference Center
2:00 PM	Past President's Meeting Villas Conference Center
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	President Larry Pope Auxiliary Pres. Joanne Bennett Reception under the tents
6:00 PM	Brunswick Low Country Boil Under the tents

**Friday, June 12, 2026 (Business casual for meeting
and installation)**

8:00 AM	Ladies Credentials Desk Open
8:45 AM	Ladies Credentials Desk Closes
9:00 AM	Auxiliary General Business Mtg. Villas Conference Center
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Elks & Auxiliary Memorial Ser. Villas Conference Center
12:00 PM	Auxiliary Installation Luncheon Brunswick Elks Lodge #691 1509 Union St. Brunswick, GA 31520
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Candidate Cocktail Reception Under the tents
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Aidmore Auction Villas Conference Center
6:00 PM	Picnic Dinner - Jesup Lodge Villas Stanton Building
7:30 PM	The Great Elksby (Roaring Twenties Theme) with Coastal Grove on stage

Saturday, June 13, 2026

8:00 AM	Horseshoe Registration Villas Room 134
9:00 AM	Horseshoes Competition Begins
11:00 AM	President's Executive Board Brunch Joanne Bennett's Room #409
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	GEA & Auxiliary Presidents Reception/Cocktails Under the tents
6:00 PM	GEA Installation & Awards Banquet - Jekyll Convention Center