



Volume 26 No. 01
April, 2026

The Catalina Mountain Elk Bugle



☆☆ Three Time All American Lodge: 2008-09, 2010-11, 2012-13 ☆☆☆

Lodge Officers

Exalted Ruler..... Kim McIlonie
 Leading KnightLisa Hensley
 Loyal Knight Mike Orcutt
 Lecturing Knight..... Rhiannon McMahon
 Secretary..... Mimi Wittenborn
 TreasurerAlane Asp, DDGER
 Trustee 1 Year..... Kathleen Hernandez
 Trustee 2 Year.....Bob Kielsa, PER
 Trustee 3 Year..... Ron Starjnski, PER
 Trustee 4 Year..... Doug Harpold, PER
 Trustee 5 Year... Jack Baillargeon, PDDGER
 Tiler..... Marie Starjnski
 Esquire..... Steve Asp, PDDGER
 Chaplain..... Chris Boladeres
 Inner Guard.....Larry Wittenborn

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

District Leader .. Jack Baillargeon, PDDGER
 Mediator..... Lee Cook, PDDGER

LODGE MEETINGS

Meetings start at 7:00 pm on the
 2nd and 4th Thursdays monthly,
 with one meeting in July and August
 on the 4th Thursday, and one
 in December on the 2nd Thursday

Catalina Elks Lodge 2815

Office: (520) 825-0893

Lounge: (520) 825-7724

bpoe2815@arizonaelks.org

www.elks2815.org

Office Hours

Monday 10.00-2:00
 Tuesday 10:00-2:00
 Thursday 10:00-2:00

Exalted Ruler's Message - Kim McIlonie



It is truly an honor to serve as the Exalted Ruler of our Lodge for the coming year. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has a long and proud tradition of service to our communities, our veterans, and our youth, and I am grateful for the opportunity to help continue that tradition. First, I would like to thank everyone who has supported, encouraged, and perhaps gently (or not so gently) nudged me into this position. I also want to recognize the officers and committee members who dedicate so much of their time and effort to making our Lodge successful. A lodge doesn't run on titles—it runs on the people who show up, volunteer, and lend a hand whenever something needs to be done. As your Exalted Ruler, my goal is simple: keep the good things going, support the programs that help our community, and make sure our Lodge remains a place where members enjoy coming together. I promise to keep an open mind, listen to ideas and suggestions, and do my best not to mess anything up. And if I do, I'm sure someone will kindly point it out to me. One goal I would especially love to see this year is a "Burn the Mortgage" ceremony when we finally reach

that milestone. Also coming up, Alane Asp, DDGER, is hosting a Charity Golf Tournament on April 18th at 1:00 p.m. at The Views Golf Club in Oro Valley. The tournament will benefit Arizona Elks Major Projects, Inc., and will be followed by dinner at our Lodge. Please sign up at the Lodge if you would like to participate. It would also be great if any officers would like to join me at the golf course to greet players and assist with registration. Also, this month, our 4th Annual Veteran's Committee Dart Tournament is coming up on April 25 h at 10:00 am. We still need players, please sign up in the Lodge. This event always helps to offset the cost of our local paralyzed vets who participate in the Paralympics. It's a great cause and a fun day! I am looking forward to the year ahead and working together to make it a successful one for our Lodge and the community we serve. Thank you for your support, your dedication, and your willingness to step up whenever help is needed.

Fraternally,
 Kim McIlonie



Leading Knight - Lisa Hensley



As we welcome April, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the incredible spirit of charity and community that filled our lodge throughout March. It was truly a month that showcased what being an Elk is all about—giving, caring, and coming together for others. One of our highlights was the Impact “Stuff-a-Bag” Food Drive for our local food bank. This effort, led by Jan Trudeau and supported by many dedicated volunteers, made a meaningful difference for families in need. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and generosity. We also celebrated the Iron Elk competition, with congratulations to Kim McIlone for winning this fun and spirited event. In a wonderful act of kindness, Kim generously donated the proceeds to PACC, helping support animals in our community. Continuing that support, Kathleen Foley organized a PACC Piggy Bank, giving members another opportunity to contribute to the shelter. Every donation, big or small, helps make a difference. Another very special event was our Clothe-A-Child shopping day, led by Leslie Huerta and Cindy Lefaive, along with many amazing volunteers. This event brought smiles to so many children, and the day was made even more memorable with a lunch and a visit from the Easter

Bunny. To everyone who volunteered, donated, and participated—thank you. Your compassion and dedication are what make our lodge so special. I am honored to serve as your Leading Knight and to be part of such a caring community. Let’s carry this momentum of kindness into the months ahead.

Faternally,
 Lisa Hensley
 Leading Knight



Secretary’s Corner - Mimi Wittenborn



From the Secretary’s Desk:
 Well, it’s the beginning of the new Elks’ year. Thank you to all the officers, committee chairpersons, volunteers and members all for a great year. I also want to congratulate all of the award winners for all their hard work. Of course, I wouldn’t be your secretary if I didn’t nag just a little. With the new year we start over with event reporting. All events, meetings, etc. are reportable. Please get these into me ASAP. Also, if you haven’t paid your 2026 – 2027 dues yet, please get those in as you will not be able to participate in any of the exciting events planned. Lodge Stats: I cannot include them this time as they will change dramatically from this writing to the time you receive the Bugle. We are looking at a growth in membership for the year.

Something to think about:

“If you change the way you look at things, the things, you look at change.

Wayne Dyer

LODGE STATS YEAR-TO-DATE

Membership to Date	629
Candidates:	14
Delinquents	29
Life Members	48
Average Age	70.03



March 9 th Sewing it Forward workshop was another success! We were able to fill and deliver 64 Easter bags with stuffed animals and toys for the University of Arizona Steele Children’s Research Center. We also delivered 31 children’s pillowcases, 9 crocheted baby blankets and 10 pajama outfits (see note below). Cindy Lefave joined us to put Easter Cloth-e-a-Child pillows into the 26 pillowcases we created for them. The ladies also wrote out Easter and Thinking-of-You cards for the Veteran’s. Teri Case and Cyndi made more port shirts for the cancer patients at the VA. ☑ Next Workshop – April 13 th (10 am to 2 pm). We are known for the best potlucks (bring your own beverage container with your favorite drink).

Note: The PJ’s go to the social worker at UA Steele Center who distributes them to those in need. Donations are appreciated.

Teen Morgan, Chairman

Have a Heart-Lisa Chavez

Have a Heart Fundraiser a Wonderful Success!

The Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge #2815 is proud to share the success of our 6th Annual Have a Heart Fundraiser, held on February 21, 2026. Thanks to the generosity of our members, local businesses, and community supporters, we raised over \$3,000 for Arizona Elks Major Projects!

This meaningful evening brought our community together for a night of great food, music, and purpose. Guests enjoyed a delicious BBQ dinner, live music by Ben Tully, and a variety of fun activities, including raffles, a lively ring toss game, and an exciting silent auction featuring a Miraval Arizona Day Spa package. A special highlight of the evening was our guest speaker, Dr. Sarah Mathena from the Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Mathena shared her work and research focused on improving the lives of children and families navigating chronic illness and developmental conditions. Her message was both inspiring and a powerful reminder of the impact these funds have on real lives.

Proceeds from this event directly support Arizona Elks Major Projects, including the Steele Children’s Research Center, the Elks Pediatric Clinic, and the Jack C. Warter Elks Youth Camp—programs that provide critical care, research, and opportunities for children across Arizona.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended, donated, volunteered, and supported this event. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

Together, we continue to show what it means to “Have a Heart.”





Past Exalted Ruler Association - Douglas Harpold, PERA President



Happy Easter to you all! It's only April and we have already seen several days in the 100 degree area. I am hoping this is not a sign of the heat we will have this summer!! I have a couple of things to report on in this article.

1st, we are looking for some help from our members to recruit some eligible students who might be interested in getting a scholarship to help pay for their schooling. At this time we only have one applicant. If you have a grandchild who might be interested, please download the application from our website and have them get it done ASAP. Time is short, but with a little effort you may be eligible to get some money to cover books, tuition, or other school necessities. My second request is for all of our members to get their renewals in and pay your dues.

As of April one the yellow membership card that you have will no longer be active. You will not be able to enter the lodge with that card, and you will also not be eligible to play Queen of Hearts. You must be a member in good standing in order to play. PERs will be asking to see your new valid card when purchasing tickets and you also will have to leave the lodge if you are not paid and a member in good standing

SO PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES!!!!



ENF Report - Ron Starjnski, PER



Hello everyone. The 2025-26 fiscal year is closed, and what a year it was! From unleashing gritty kids with the Elks Hoop Shoot, to helping the next generation of leaders achieve their academic dreams with scholarships, to meeting the

unique needs of communities with Community Investments Program grants, Elks have proven that they always care. As one chapter ends, another begins: Applications for 2026-27 Beacon, Spotlight, and Gratitude Grants are now open! You may be eager to start building stronger communities in this new year, but before your Lodge applies for a Gratitude Grant, make sure to wait until the fundraising numbers from the 2025-26 fiscal year are updated in May. Waiting to apply will ensure your Lodge gets the full extent of our thanks! For questions about the Gratitude Grant and its bonuses, please contact the CIP team at LodgeGrants@elks.org or by calling 773/755-4730. Our Lodge, Catalina Mountain Lodge # 2815, is currently 2nd in the state for Per-Member Donations @ \$31.26 and we are 97th out of 1,811 lodges in the nation. Great job everyone. Donate today and let's try for first place in the state by the end of the year.

Your Lodge's March Fundraising Statistics
 2025/2026 Per-Member-Giving Goal: \$5.15
 Donation Deadline: 3/31/2026

Total Donations \$18,224.00	Membership Support: 15.09%
Per-Member-Giving: \$ 31.259	Fidelity Club Members: 29
Renewal Rate: 56.80%	ENF in your State: \$ 1.471
Leaky Bucket: -32	Lodge Grant Funds: \$10,000.00

Updated through 03/11/2026

We are also currently # 1 in the state for the ENF Chair Challenge, The Chair Challenge contest recognizes Lodges for having a broad-based fundraising program in support of the ENF.

Comprehensive reports and standings online aid ENF Fundraising Chairs in tracking ENF support, identifying donors, and understanding strengths and weaknesses.

Chair Challenge Score

This report compares the Chair Challenge composite score with the average score in the District, State and Nationally. When the District, State or National average is listed in red, it means the Chair's score is lower. When listed in black, it means the Chair's score is greater than district, state, or national average.

Lodge year through: 03/11/2026 (Membership based on 4/1/2025 data.)

Lodge Name	% Lodge Number	% District	% Members	Composite Score	% District Avg.	% State Avg.	% National Avg.
Catalina Mountain AZ	2815	508	503	551.000	411.000	383.180	330.440
San City AZ	2564	509	3322	733.000	424.800	383.180	330.440
Phoenix AZ	3035	509	1081	713.000	424.800	383.180	330.440
Las Vegas City AZ	2389	509	4322	677.361	424.800	383.180	330.440
Chandler AZ	2429	420	847	670.000	388.114	383.180	330.440
Scottsdale AZ	3489	488	597	640.000	317.247	383.180	330.440
Tucson AZ	2251	420	411	633.500	388.114	383.180	330.440
Pasadena AZ	2154	468	769	620.000	317.247	383.180	330.440
Cockeysville PA	2350	420	524	621.000	388.114	383.180	330.440
Sierra Vista AZ	2065	500	408	600.000	411.520	383.180	330.440

Thank you all and if you have any questions my email address is rstarjnski@gmail.com

I will see you at the lodge.

Ron Starjnski PER, ENF chair



Lodge and Community Activities - Jan Trudeau

**L** ODGE ACTIVITIES

Hello April and hello to the New Elk year. 2026-2027. Welcome to all the newly elected officers and committee chairs. Let's see what we have in store for you this month. We start with Bingo on Saturday April 4th at 1:00. Please notice the time change from 2:00. We start earlier because after Bingo, we will have our Iron Chef Elk contest that same day at 3:30. Last month's contest featured applesauce and Kim McIlonie won with her applesauce crumb cake! Congrats Kim. We collected \$125.00 from the judges/tasters and the funds went to the charity-PACC-Pima Animal Care Center. The April ingredient for Iron Chef Elk is yogurt. Consider making something to compete, or come and taste/judge. It's only \$5.00 per person and the winner gets to pick the charity that the money goes to. Lobster Fest happens on Saturday April 11th from 5-6:30. It's \$45.00 per person for amazing lobster flown in from the east coast. Find the sign-up sheet in the lounge. Make sure there is still room, as there is limited seating. The DDGER golf tournament is being held on Saturday April 18th at the Views golf club. Check the lounge for more information. The next weekend-April 25th is the annual dart tournament. This event is always a blast and raises funds for the Veterans committee. Check the lounge for flyers and sign-up sheets. Texas Hold 'Em card games are scheduled for Sunday the 12th and also on Sunday the 26th. Please sign up in the lounge so we know how many tables to set up. Darts are on Saturdays except none on Saturday the 11th. The lobster folks need the back patio, and none on Saturday the 25th -we will have already played darts at the tournament. Wednesdays are the usual -2nd Wednesday is Tacos and Trivia, and the 4th Wednesday is the full dinner and music bingo. Please sign up for the dinner in advance. Other Wednesdays will offer a light fare as do Fridays before the Queen of Hearts drawings.

Well, that's all, it's going to a very busy April. Enjoy!!

C OMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Thank you to all the Elks who helped make our "stuff a box/bags" event so successful! We utilized 2 grants from the grand lodge-a Beacon grant, and a Gratitude grant to create these boxes and bags. The total was \$9,000!! Wow, we have never had an event quite this large. We made food bags and boxes so that during school breaks the families that qualify will have meals at home. This is a very worthwhile project and I know we really made a difference in many of our less fortunate neighbors lives. Way to go Elks!!



Veterans Dart Tournament

Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge #2815

Invites you to participate in our 4th Annual
Charity Darts Tournament

All proceeds benefit Veterans

Saturday April 25 @ 10 AM

Potluck @ Noon



Prizes
Silent Auction
Raffles



TOP
LUCK
Bring Food

Sign up in the Lounge by April 17
Entry fee: \$25 @Sign-UP
Limited to 32 Participants
Double Elimination
Teams will be drawn randomly



For Information Contact:
Jim Roberts : 248-330-0717
Rick Sitzmann: 520-665-9269
Kayleen Borah: 269-355-0524





Veterans Committee - PER Bob Kielsa



Our Non Cash donations have reached \$130,335, Cash donations total \$20,240, and we have \$33,597 in

Welcome Home Kits for our Homeless Veterans. This brings our total Veteran donations to \$184,172 for this lodge year ending on March 31, 2026. Our goal is \$200,000 in donations for 2025/2026 Elk year. We will have year end numbers for you in our May report. Please mark your calendars for our Spring Dart Tournament scheduled for Saturday, April 25th. This has been a very entertaining/fun fundraising event for our veterans. If you haven't participated in this event before please consider giving it a try. Its a great way to meet members of our lodge and in the process provide support for many veteran issues that

need our help. You may sign up in the bar. And rest assured the pot luck is one you will enjoy and remember. You can help our homeless veterans by contributing new Undershorts and T-shirts (Med, Lg, XL), Jeans (W 33, 34, 36) and Socks. Please place any NEW items in the White barrel in the lounge and USED items in the Pod in front of the lodge. As always, a big thank you for your continued support for our veterans!



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House Committee - Ann Girvin



Hello Everyone, Let me introduce myself—my name is Ann Girvin, and I am your new House Committee Chair. I'd like to start by thanking Pam Wedwaldt for her great work and guidance as I step into this position. A little

about my background: my wonderful husband and I moved to Tucson from Connecticut in October 2020. I love being here, and I've been lucky enough to have one of my four children follow us out here. I enjoy cooking, and you can usually find me at the Elks on Wednesdays and Fridays. I am very passionate about volunteering and would love to connect with anyone interested in getting involved. Volunteering can sometimes feel intimidating—you may not know what to expect or how much time it requires. Let me assure you, we have plenty of opportunities, both big and small, and I'm happy to talk with you about options that fit your interests and availability. We have some wonderful committees that would love your support. This coming year is shaping up to be an exciting one! We already have a full calendar of

activities in April, including a golf tournament on April 18th and a dart tournament on April 25th. We also host weekly events like Wednesday and Friday dinners, along with Queen of Hearts. Other activities include darts, Texas Hold'em, bingo, and the Iron Elk Competition, as well as our monthly trivia and music bingo. Looking ahead, we'll also have events like our Mimosa Brunch (AEMP) and Veteran Games (Veteran's Committee), just to name a few. In addition, we are working toward an important goal—paying off the mortgage and fundraising to move forward with a new building. With so much going on, there are bound to be questions. Please feel free to reach out! Not only will it let me know you read this, but it will also give me the opportunity to help answer your questions or connect you with someone who can. You can stop by and see me in my happy place (the kitchen) on Wednesdays or Fridays, or email me at Ann@tucsontrivia.com. Thank you for reading, and I look forward to talking with or meeting you! Warm regards,
Ann Girvin

Elks of the Year

I would just like to congratulate our Elk of the Year, Ann Girvin and our Officer of the Year, Bob Kielsa. As many of you have seen in person, or heard about from other Elks, Ann has brought some innovation and great ideas to the food service we supply on Wednesdays and Fridays and can be seen cooking and working several times a week. He works tirelessly to give you great meals and events. Ann

has also brought many great times to the Elks through Music Bingo and Trivia. Bob Kielsa works extremely hard taking care of many of our Veterans activities at the lodge, as well as being a hard working back-up for Jack B. on his many duties. Please take some time out to congratulate and thank both of these hard working Elks the next time you see them!!!



April Birthdays

01	Cheryl Galligos	24	Cecil H. Bartlett
01	Janet E. Trudeau	24	Jacob Messer
02	Paul Galligos	24	Mark Plummer
02	Terri Kusma	26	Leonard Brown
02	Lori-Jan Loewe	26	Thomas Roblee
04	Ronald Gaarder	27	Gerld J Hedberg
04	Terry Parish	29	Victoria L Harpold
05	Sarah Ann Murray	29	Larry M Henley
07	Arlene Desjardins	29	Thomas W Kaliski
07	Dan Frizzell	30	Peggy Nelson
07	Elias L. Harpold		
07	Linda Suddath		
08	Linda D. Floyd		
09	Leland Vulcan		
09	Amanda Wittenborn		
11	Gail Weiss		
12	Jay Laux		
14	John L Berchiatta		
15	Winston Lambert		
15	Paul Slater		
16	William Ball		
16	Kathleen Hernandez		
17	Charles LeValley		
19	Garrett Rassing		
20	Richard Torres		
20	Lola Townsend		
20	Mary Lynn Ziegler		
23	Wayne Brittain		
23	Roy Ronquillo		

Wednesday Dinner Menu

April 1st	April 15th
Crack Chicken Sandwiches	Baked Potato Bar
5PM until sold out	5PM until sold out
April 8th	April 22nd
Tacos \$2 each;	Coq Au Vin
4:30-6:00 pm or UNTIL SOLD OUT	5PM
	April 29th
	Sandwiches
	5PM until sold out

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April

- April 4* **Bingo/Darts**
April 11 **Lobster Fest**
April 12 **Texas Hold'em**
April 13 **Sew It Forward**
April 18 **Charity Golf Tournament/ Darts**
April 19 **DDGER Clinic**
April 25 **Veterans Dart Tournament**
April 26 **Texas Hold'em**

*Also check the Lodge Calendar
for additional events*