



# THE TORCH

Newsletter of Royal Canadian Legion Kingsway Branch # 175

Dec 2025 Edition

## BRANCH HOURS

Mon - 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm  
Tue - Wed 11:00 am - 11:00 pm  
Thu - Sat 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Sun - Closed

## BRANCH OFFICE

Mon - 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm  
Tue - Wed 11:00 am - 11:00 pm  
Thu - Sat 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Sun - Closed

## CANTEEN BAR

Mon - 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm  
Tue - 11:00 am - 11:00 pm  
Thu- Sat 11:00 am - 12:00  
Sun - Closed

## KITCHEN

Mon - 5:00 pm—8:00 pm  
Tue - Wed 11:00 am - 8:00 pm  
Thu - Sat 11:00 am - 9:00 pm  
Sun - Closed

## Branch General Meetings

The next General Meeting will be on  
Tuesday, Jan 27, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Please attend the General Meetings and help to  
keep the Legion running.

Branch General Meetings take place on the last  
Tuesday of each month, from September to June  
(except for December), in the Maple Room,  
starting at 7:00 p.m.

## HOLIDAY OPERATING HOURS

23 Dec	Regular Hours
24 Dec	11:00am – 4:00pm
25 Dec	Closed
26 Dec	Closed
27 Dec	Regular Hours
28 Dec	Closed
29 Dec	Regular Hours
30 Dec	Regular Hours
31 Dec	11:00am – 4:00pm
1 Jan 2026	Closed
2 Jan	Regular Hours
3 Jan	Regular Hours

14339 – 50<sup>th</sup> Street NW - Edmonton, AB T5A 0S9 (780)-425-8654  
[www.kingswaylegion.ca](http://www.kingswaylegion.ca) | [www.facebook.com/kingswaylegion](https://www.facebook.com/kingswaylegion)



*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.*



### ***Fallen Comrades***



It is with deep regret that we announce the following members have passed on since we last gathered together.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Service</b>
Zelda Doell	92	17 Nov	

### ***OUR NEWEST MEMBERS***

Darren Robertson	Emmet Butland
Sherry Wonitoy	Bruce Willard
Brenda Needham	Carol Payne
Chet Williams	Melvin Rudyk
Eden Yong	John Exnowski
Don Slater	Matthew Lees
Tracy Exnowski	Michelle Drinkell
Aldon Pagio	
If you see our new members in the Legion please take a moment out and welcome them.	

### ***MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING***

**as of Nov 18, 2025**

Affiliate	<b>219</b>
Associate	<b>381</b>
Life Members	<b>24</b>
Ordinary	<b>390</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1014</b>

### ***WHAT'S YOUR IRRATIONAL FEAR?***

#### **Gerascophobia: is the fear of aging**

This is the fear of aging, often linked to concerns about health, appearance, or becoming a burden.

# ***RESULTS OF THE BRANCH ELECTIONS FOR THE 2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE***

## **Head Officers**

President	<b>Rick Etmanski</b>
1st Vice President	<b>Carol Wills</b>
2nd Vice President	<b>Janet Hazen</b>
Secretary	<b>Cheryl Taylor</b>
Past President / Honours & Awards	<b>Robert “Mac” Torrie</b>
Treasurer / Financial Committee Chair	<b>Dennis Frievel / Don Leben</b>

## **Executive Committee**

Chairperson	To Be Confirmed
Sgt - at - Arms	<b>Lionel Foote</b>
Service Officer	<b>Mike Walsh</b>
Ways & Means	<b>Jennifer Matheson</b>
Poppy	<b>Bill O’Brien</b>
Building & Grounds	<b>Robert “Mac” Torrie</b>
Sports	To Be Confirmed
Membership	<b>Farren Richardson</b>
Entertainment / By-Laws Chair	<b>Jackie Hyshka</b>
Public Relations	<b>Janet Hazen</b>
Cadet Liaison	<b>Terry Zech</b>
Sick & Visiting / Chaplain	<b>Bob Wiebe</b>
Historian	<b>Rick Etmanski</b>
Funeral / Honour Guard	<b>Rick Etmanski</b>
L.A. President	<b>Kim Earles</b>
Kipness Liaison	<b>Kathy Deugau</b>
Vets Villa Liaison	<b>Patty Earles</b>
Office Manager	<b>Flo Werner</b>

<b>ABNWT</b>	District Commander	<b>Darren Longstaff</b>
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## ***MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION***



Robert "Mac" Torrie receives  
his 50 year Service Pin & Certificate



Wayne Coffin receives  
his 50 year Service Pin & Certificate



Mike Walsh receives  
his 25 year Service Pin & Certificate



Peggy Enns receives  
her 15 year Service Pin & Certificate

## ***MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION***



Members of Kingsway Legion Ladies Auxiliary present the President, Rick Etmanski with a cheque for \$17,108 to the Branch.

### **President's Message**

At Kingsway Legion we strive to provide a place that our members and their guest feel safe & welcome.

I can say “**Mission Accomplished**”.

The work our staff, along with our amazing volunteers, do throughout the year does not go unnoticed. Whether it be assisting in the kitchen, sitting at the raffle table, cleaning up after an event, or working a bingo, it all counts towards the good and welfare of the Branch. Not only do your efforts have an immediately effect but it also allows us to put those volunteer hours towards receiving grants. By volunteering you have helped in reducing our operational cost by 15% this year.

From the bottom of my heart I say “Thank You” to each and everyone of you.

Have safe and wonderful holiday season. I look forward to see you at the Branch in the new year.

Rick Etmanski  
President



Larence Hodgson receives his 5 year Service Pin



## ***WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LADIES AUXILIARY***

Our LA elections took place on Nov 18, 2025. Our new President is Madam Kim Earles. We have a new member on the executive Madam Arlene Murray who is a dual member. Currently we have 55 members in good standing. Installations for the Legion and Ladies Auxiliary is Sunday Dec 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM. Please come support the executives that put in many volunteer hours for the branch.

Our Auxiliary is a hard-working group and many volunteer hours are put in for the Legion in different capacities as well. You can find volunteers at the Legion Bingo's, at dances and the jam nights, helping serve food in the canteen at peak times, with the poppy campaign and anywhere else we can.

Our Christmas raffle, bake sale, white elephant table, ham & turkey draws and 50/50 takes place on Saturday December the 13<sup>th</sup>. If you are donating baking, please drop off on Dec 13<sup>th</sup> between 9:30 and 10:30 AM. The sale starts at 10:30 AM. The ham & turkey ticket sales begin at 1:00 PM followed by our 50/50. Right after the 50/50 draw we will hold our raffle draw. We only have about five books of tickets left to sell that day out of 1800 tickets printed. A huge thank you for all your support.

Some of our members have been busily purchasing and receiving donations for our Kipnes Christmas Project. Our members will put together 120 gift bags one for each resident at the Kipnes. We have received a few wonderful thank you notes from residents or a family member in the past. A thank you still goes a long way!

We will hold our Free Fun Bingo after the meat raffle and 50/50 on Saturday December 20<sup>th</sup>. There WILL NOT be a meat raffle and 50/50 on December 27<sup>th</sup>. We will be back in the New Year on Saturday January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.

The Ladies presented a donation of \$17,108 at the Legion General Meeting on November 25<sup>th</sup> and will have another \$7000 to donate in December. These donations are made possible from the great support we feel and receive from the Easter and Christmas Raffle Days and our weekly meat raffles and 50/50. A heartfelt thank you for all your support.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone!

**Please remember to stay off of Santa's Naughty List!!!**



Edmonton's Magic of Lights



## 2025 POPPY CAMPAIGN



Well, another Poppy campaign is coming to a close. Many hours of labor were expended and that is partly due to all the support that I got, from sitting in the Malls to making deliveries.

A special Thanks to Terese Biddiscombe for all her support. She probably logged over 300 hours keeping tabs on how things were progressing and entering all the data into the computer.

Geoff Biddiscombe did a lot of work in the background, he also deserves a big pat on the back.

I've been fighting a cold for most of this campaign so I have been slack in fulfilling my job. Trese and Geoff stepped up and did a great job of covering for me.

Hours to complete the job exceeded 250. It is a time consuming job but also a rewarding job. If you are at all interested in this assignment please let us know as we are looking for a co-ordinator.

Thank You one and all for your support. It's only through your help that the job got finished.

Bill O'Brien

Poppy Chairman



*From Your Executive Committee Members and Staff we wish you all a  
safe*

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

**Branch Annual Christmas  
Ham & Turkey Draw  
Wednesday December 17**



**6 each**



**6 each**

**Tickets go on sale at 6:00pm**

**First Draw 6:30pm**

**Tickets 5 for \$5.00**

**(good for all draws)**



**Branch 50 / 50 Raffle**

A 50/50 Raffle will be held  
immediately following  
the Meat Draw  
10 tickets for \$5.00

**This will be the final Wednesday Night Meat draw for 2025**



*Ring in*  
**2026** @ *Kingsway  
Legion*



**DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY TO** *Blackboard Jungle*

**Playing Contemporary, Rock, Country, Classics, Waltz's!**

**TICKETS**

(+ gst)

**ADVANCED SALES: PRIOR TO DEC 14**

**\$70.00/LEGION MEMBERS**

**\$75/NON-LEGION MEMBERS**

**TICKET SALES: DEC 15- 27**

**\$75.00/LEGION MEMBERS**

**\$80/NON- LEGION MEMBERS**

**YOUR TICKET INCLUDES:**

**DOOR PRIZES**

**PARTY FAVORITES**

**MIDNIGHT SNACK**

**DINNER BUFFET**

**SLOW ROASTED ALBERTA BEEF W/ AU JUS**

**YORKSHIRE PUDDING**

**BREAST OF CHICKEN IN MUSHROOM SAUCE**

**CREAMY WHIPPED POTATOES**

**RICE PILAF**

**ASSORTED VEGETABLES**

**ASSORTED SALAD | BUNS | COFFEE, TEA**

**ASSORTED DESSERTS**

**DOORS OPEN : 5:30 PM**

**COCKTAILS: 6:30 PM**

**DINNER: 7:00 PM**

**MUSIC: 9:00 PM - 1:00 AM**

*Tickets Go On Sale : Oct 31 for Members*

*Nov 15 for Non -Members*

**14339 50th NW Edmonton | 780.425.8654 | <https://www.kingswaylegion.ca>**

## **VETERAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

You do not have to be a member of the Legion to obtain support or assistance in receiving benefits or allowances from Veteran Affairs.

Contact any Legion Branch Service Office.

In addition, you can contact the Edmonton Service Bureau.

#102 – 10471 – 178 Street NW  
Edmonton, AB T5S 1R5

Phone: (780) 448-4982

Email: [info@abnwtlegion.com](mailto:info@abnwtlegion.com)

### **Quote of the Month**

“Isn’t it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?”

Lucy Maud Montgomery



## **Canada Flag Pin Approved for Standard Legion Dress**

As a show of support to Canadian Sovereignty, DEC has approved the wearing of a Canada Flag pin on Standard Legion Dress. As such, the Canadian Flag pin available through Legion Supply (Item 400815, only type allowed), is approved for wear on Standard Legion Dress only for an initial period of two years (1 June 2025 to 1 June 2027). The pin is to be worn on the outside of the Support our Troop pin and levelled to it.



Stay tuned as we continue to plan for our  
100<sup>th</sup> year celebrations





# Annual Christmas Bake Sale & Raffle Draw December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025



**Raffle Draw Tickets are on sale now @ \$2.00 each**

- |           |                                               |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1st Prize | <b>Grocery Hamper (value \$400)</b>           |
| 2nd Prize | <b>Various Gift Card (value \$250)</b>        |
| 3rd Prize | <b>Cheese Board Gift Basket (value \$100)</b> |

Bake Sale starts at 10:30 am

Meat Draw Tickets go on sale at 1:00pm

Tickets 5 for \$5.00 (good for all draws)

50/50 Raffle following Meat Draws 10 tickets for \$5.00



**14339 50th NW Edmonton | 780.425.8654 | [kingswaylegion.ca](http://kingswaylegion.ca)**

## Legion Centenary Medal

To mark the Legion's 100th anniversary, a special Legion Centenary Medal has been created honouring our proud history and the members and volunteers who have carried our mission forward for a century.



The medal is now available.

The cost is \$30.00 (+gst)

This commemorative medal is authorized for wear effective January 1, 2026



## Congratulations To This Years Grey Cup Ticket Winners

SHEILA BARTHA	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	\$100.00
GREG BAILLARGEON	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	\$150.00
CINDY KNIGHT	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	\$150.00
MARTIN SHANK	Final Score	\$400.00



## ***JUNO ROOM WEEKEND ENTERTAINMENT***

**Here is a quick look at the upcoming entertainment events  
in the Juno Room for the month of December**

**Dec 5 & 6**

Robyn Ashley



**Dec 12 & 13**

Sparkling Tones



**Dec 19 & 20**

CC & High Ryder



## ***THURSDAY NIGHT JAM ENTERTAINMENT***

**Here is a quick look at the upcoming entertainment events  
in the Maple Leaf Room for the months of December & January**

**December 4**

Running Rivers Band



**December 18**

The Big Bang Boy



**January 8**

Norn & the Country Jammers



**January 29**

CC & High Ryder





Over 45-50 Vendors,

The Farmers Market will be held outdoors  
every Sunday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

For updates on this event checkout our website:

[millercrossingfm](http://millercrossingfm) or on Facebook

[facebook.com/millercrossingfarmersmarket](https://facebook.com/millercrossingfarmersmarket)

Our goal is to provide the north east Edmonton region with a marketplace that encourages the local community to support a “Buy Local” philosophy.

**We are an Alberta Approved Farmers' Market.**

There was a man who was born on the fifth day of the fifth month of 1955, whose lucky number was five.

On his birthday, he went to the racetrack and was astounded to see that in the fifth race (scheduled for five o'clock) a horse named Pentagram was running, with the odds of 55 to 1.

Rushing off to the bank, the man was astonished to find he had \$55,555.55 in his bank account. He withdrew the whole amount, dashed back to the races and bet all of it on Pentagram to win.

Pentagram, obviously, came in fifth.

# VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed for selling the  
BIG 50/50 Raffle

Let's keep Kingsway Legion open and  
viable

We need volunteers to help promote and  
sell raffle tickets at Legion events and  
other events throughout Edmonton, if  
you are interested in helping with this  
campaign, contact the office at

**780.425.8654**



As of Nov 27, 2025  
we have raised just over:

**\$34,000.00**

Lets keep the momentum going!

# 2026 Membership Sticker

Your 2026 Membership Sticker are now available.

You have three choices to pay:

In person;

By phone;

or online at: <https://portal.legion.ca/renew>

As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 the Branch will be increasing the membership fees by \$5.00. The new rates will be \$75.00 for regular members and \$67.00 for senior members. This increase is as a result of recent increase in Dominion fees.

## ***POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION BURSARY***

A Bursary is awarded to students who are Veterans, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, spouses or surviving spouses of Veterans; who are in need of financial assistance. Bursaries up to \$2,000 may be awarded at any stage of a college or university program.

Just download the application from:

<https://kingswaylegion.ca/bursary-application-form>

Once completed, drop the application off at the Branch office or email it to:

[office@kingswaylegion.ca](mailto:office@kingswaylegion.ca)



## ***LEGION BUDDY CHECK COFFEE***

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the Month

Veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP and Allied Forces are welcome. You do not need to be a Legion member to attend.

Open to all Veterans. Your local legion is here supporting our area.

Come meet fellow Veterans in a safe, non-judgmental atmosphere of comradeship. There will be free coffee, tea and soft drinks.

For more information contact Louise Abdou at [Edm175buddycheckcoffee@hotmail.com](mailto:Edm175buddycheckcoffee@hotmail.com) or call 780-868-8917





## **“ ‘I KNOW ITS NOT QUITE CHRISTMAS BUT: ’ WHO WAS IN THE MANGER ON THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS MORNING?”**

Hi Comrades

We are a couple weeks away from one of two Major Events on the Christian Calendar, Christmas, and so I'm thinking you are expecting something along the Christmas Line, and you would be right.

In both of my careers, an RCMP Officer stationed in a number of smaller communities, and then again as a clergyperson, I have experienced Christmas in a variety of ways. As a Police Officer I have worked many Christmas Eves, and Christmas Days. I preferred working Christmas Eve, as many times it was quiet, and I was able to drop by my home for short periods of time. During those evening shifts, I had occasion to stop by numerous residences, wish them a Merry Christmas and on several occasions play Santa Claus.

Christmas was usually quiet and I had much time to think, and regularly my thoughts would turn the real meaning of Christmas and what it really meant, for me personally. I had a number of opportunities to stop the Police Car, get out and admire the majesty of the stars, in their millions when all around me it was black. What was it about that first Christmas, that we still read about and think about several thousand years later?

In addition to the Bible, I have been impacted by a number of writers, and one of those continues to be Lee Strobel, a former Crime Reporter for the Chicago Tribune, and when I met him he was a Teaching Pastor at Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago, where I was attending a Global Leadership Summit. Among his numerous books, this one stands out “The Case for Christmas.” And, from that book he recounts the following story.

**Quote:** “Sixty-year-old Perfecta and her granddaughters Lydia and Jenny had been turned out of their roach-infested tenement and were now living in a tiny two-room apartment on the West side. As I walked in, I couldn't believe how empty it was. There was no furniture, no rugs, nothing on the walls only a small kitchen table and one handful of rice. That's it! They were virtually devoid of possessions.

In fact, eleven-year-old Lydia and thirteen-year-old Jenny owned only one short-sleeved dress each, plus one thin, gray sweater between them. When they walked the half mile to school through the biting cold, Lydia would wear the sweater for part of the distance and then hand it to her shivering sister, who would wear it the rest of the way.

But despite their poverty and Perfecta's painful arthritis that prevented her from working, she still talked confidently about her faith in Jesus. She was convinced He had not abandoned them.

Strobel goes on to say following his visit with this family, “I never sensed despair or self-pity in her home; Instead, there was a gentle feeling of hope and peace.” I continued to wrestle with the irony of the situation: here was a family that had nothing but faith and yet seemed happy.

**Strobel went back to the Delgado home on Christmas Eve, and here is what he found:** When Jenny opened the door, he says, “I couldn't believe my eyes.” Many of the readers of his article had

**“ ‘I KNOW ITS NOT QUITE CHRISTMAS BUT: ’  
WHO WAS IN THE MANGER ON THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS MORNING?’” *CONT'D***

provided the Delgado's with a treasure trove of gifts, furniture, appliances, and rugs; a lavish Christmas tree with piles of wrapped presents underneath; cartons bulging with food; and a dazzling selection of clothing, including dozens of warm winter coats, scarves, and gloves. On top of that, they donated cash. But as surprised as I was by this outpouring of generosity, “ I was even more astonished by what his visit interrupted: Perfecta and her granddaughters were getting ready to give away much of their newfound wealth. When I asked Perfecta why, she replied in halting English: “Our neighbors are still in need. We cannot have plenty while they have nothing. **This is what Jesus would want us to do.**” unquote

This story blows me away, and I can do nothing else but think, **“Yes that is what Jesus would do, and has done, and continues to do.”** I am reminded that I have done nothing to deserve the Love God had for me, by sending His One and Only Son, to come to earth, and live here for some 33 years. I try hard to imagine what His journey must have been like. He left the Glories of Heaven where everything was perfect and came to live on this earth.

You see comrades, the Child in the Manger was the undeserved gift that means everything. It means more than material possession, more than comfort, more than security, it means a new life for us all, especially during this coming Christmas Season. We have done nothing to deserve this amazing gift, did nothing to earn it: **“It's a gift from God, who loved us, and it is that gift that we celebrate this Christmas.”** The Child in the manger brings peace despite poverty, joy in the midst of sorrow. The Child brings the wonder of spiritual connection with Almighty God.

This Christmas can I encourage us all to read with new eyes, the account of the coming of the Baby in the Manger, in Luke 2: 1-16. I close with the question, Why did Jesus come? And I answer with these words, found in **John 3:16, from the Message: This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.**

***“JESUS the SAVIOUR, the PRINCE OF PEACE,  
THAT IS WHO WAS IN THE MANGER, THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS MORNING.”***

Rev. R.D. (Bob) Wiebe  
Padre, RCL, Kingsway Branch



**Kingsway Legion**  
**is Proud to Host the**  
**Edmonton Police Services Choir**

Wednesday Dec 17, 2025 at 1:00 pm



**Open to everyone!**

Come early, enjoy a meal, and be  
entertained by Edmonton's own EPS Choir





## ***KINGSWAY LEGION LEAGUE SPORTS***



### **Darts**

Monday Nights 7 to 10 pm  
Tue & Thu Afternoons 1 to 3 pm



### **Cribbage**

Monday Nights 6:30 to 10 pm



### **Canasta**

Tue & Thu Afternoons 1 to 3 pm



### **Pool**

Tue & Thu 12 to 3 pm  
Sat Afternoons 12 to 3 pm



### **Euchre**

Wed Nights 7 to 10 pm



### **Shuffleboard**

Thu 6:30 to 10 pm  
Fri 7:00 to 10:30 pm



### **Mah Jongg**

Wed Afternoon 12:30 to 3:30



## ***KENSINGTON BINGO DATES***

**Wednesday December 3**

**Monday December 8**

**Monday December 29**

**Monday January 12, 2026**

**Anyone wishing to volunteer please contact:**

**Sharon (Blondie) or Ron Charlet at (780) 416-6102**

**or leave a message at the Branch by calling 780-425-8654**

**Lunch Provided!**



Kingsway Legion invites dedicated individuals to join our vibrant volunteer teams. We're seeking enthusiastic individuals who want to make a difference while supporting Legion values.

Tuesdays 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

Wednesdays 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Thursdays 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

Fridays 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Saturdays 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

Saturdays 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Your assistance will be required for the delivery of food & cleaning of tables.

If you are available to work any of the above mentioned shifts please contact:

**Norma Yerex @ 780-478-7680**

# Legion



## BSO OSI

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# OP VETBUILD

Operation VetBuild is a Royal Canadian Legion initiative run by the RCL's OSI Special Section (BSO Legion OSI). This is a peer to peer program by veterans, for veterans and includes RCMP and allied veterans. The objective is to help improve mental health through hobby and in this case, table top / miniature games, model building and board games 100% free to veteran's.

***Will be held every 3rd Saturday of the month.  
From 1pm -4pm***

### **OP VETBUILD**

**Contact: Anthony Sowards**  
**teutonicknights@shaw.ca**

### **TABLETOP**

**Contact: James Morris**  
**phgang02@hotmail.ca**

**Kingsway Legion Branch #175**  
**14339 50th Street, Edmonton, AB**

# Weekly Meat Draws



**Every Wednesday Nights**

**Tickets go on sale at 6:00pm**

**First Draw 6:30pm**



**Every Saturday Afternoon**

**Tickets go on sale at 1:000pm**

**First Draw 1:30pm**

**Tickets 5 for \$5.00**

**(good for all draws)**



**Branch 50 / 50 Raffle**

We hold a 50/50 Raffle  
immediately following  
both Meat Draws  
10 tickets for \$5.00