

The Elk's Antler

June 2026

Message from the Exalted Ruler:



2026-2027

Officers

Exalted Ruler: Byron White

Leading Knight: Andrea Gobbell

Loyal Knight: Jonathan Barry

Lecturing Knight: Robin Walker

Secretary: Jennifer Allen

Treasurer: Stephen McKee

5 Year Trustee: Rodney Gobbell

4 Year Trustee: Wayne Romesburg

3 Year Trustee: Terry Potts

2 Year Trustee: Patti Hollinsworth

1 Year Trustee: Gary Greksa

Esquire: Josh Sykes

Inner Guard: Dana Bass

Tiler: Barbara Garland

Chaplain: Karson Gobbell

Hello Fellow Elks,

I hope everyone is enjoying this pre-summer weather!

Columbia 686 has been busy the month of May.

We began May with the Ladies Appreciation Day and Derby Day. I think everyone enjoyed all the festivities. The Ladies appreciation day has grown each year! I would like to thank all of the men that helped with the brunch to show our appreciation to all the ladies! Also a big thank you to Andrea Gobbell who has seen that this event is successful every year!

The entertainment committee did a great job with Derby Day and hopefully we can have another "race day" later on in the year. We had two Saturdays with "Music on the Deck" and a good time was had by all! The yard sale had a good response as well!

I hope everyone has had a good Memorial Holiday in remembrance of our fallen soldiers. "All gave some, some gave all".

I'm asking all Fellow Elks to mark their calendar for July 25th, as this is our 125th anniversary of Columbia Elks Lodge 686! More details to follow!

Everyone be safe in all your summer festivities and travels! Be sure to check the calendar for fun and rewarding events in June!

Exalted Ruler
Byron White

Tip of the Antler – Andrea Gobbell



A heartfelt thank you to Andrea Gobbell for organizing the wonderful Ladies Appreciation Brunch here at the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge! Your hard work, thoughtful planning, and attention to every detail made the event truly special. The beautiful atmosphere, delicious food, and time shared together were greatly appreciated by everyone who attended. Thank you for all you do to bring people together and make our lodge feel so welcoming and memorable!

COLUMBIA ELKS SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY!!

Columbia Elks once again cooked hamburgers in support of our youth! On May 15th we cooked and delivered 80 hamburgers with buns for EA Cox Elementary School Special Education Day. Special thanks to Terry Rippey, Karson Gobbell, W.L. Culberson, and John Merritt for cooking and delivering.



Member Awards

In March the following members were given plaques and special recognition for the 2025-2026 year:

Betty Kelley for Outstanding work with Scholarships

Steve McKee for Outstanding work stepping in as Treasurer and fixing our system

Byron White awarded Officer of the Year

John Merritt awarded Elk of the Year

Congratulations to these members!

Meet Our Newest Members!

George Lovell, Michael Vaughn, Whitney Herrington, Egan Spoltore, Michael Head, ER Byron White, William O. Potts, Michael Walters



Give a big wELKome when you see them at the lodge!

Derby Day at the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Columbia Elks #686 was a winning success! Members gathered for an afternoon full of fun, fellowship, festive hats, friendly competition, and exciting horse race action – all while supporting a great fundraiser for our lodge and community efforts. From the cheers at the finish line to the laughter shared throughout the day, Derby Day was truly enjoyed by all! Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, and helped make this event such a memorable celebration. Until next year... may the best horse win!



FLAG DAY INFO

Flag Day, observed each year on June 14, commemorates the adoption of the United States flag in 1777 by the Continental Congress. This day serves as a reminder of the flag's powerful symbolism—representing unity among the states, the sacrifices made for freedom, and the enduring spirit of the nation. Across the country, communities mark the occasion with ceremonies, parades, and displays of the Stars and Stripes on homes, schools, and public buildings. It's a time to reflect on the values the flag embodies and to honor the shared history it represents.

We will have a Flag Day Ceremony on June 11 at 6pm. Bring your worn out flags to the lodge for proper disposal.

Happy Birthday Columbia Elks 686!

Join us July 25th as Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Columbia Lodge #686 proudly celebrates 125 years of service, fellowship, and community spirit!

Come celebrate the many successful projects, memorable events, and lasting traditions that have made our lodge such a special part of the community for generations.

Together, we'll honor the past, celebrate the present, and look forward to an exciting future!

Fellowship • Memories • Celebration • Community

We look forward to celebrating this incredible milestone with all of our members, families, and friends

Membership Notices

Meeting date June 9, 2026

To be Read:

None as of press time

Balloting:

For new membership-

Brittany Bennett, Columbia, Proposer: Katherine Sykes

Michael D. Bryan, Columbia, retired, Proposer: Lee Duff

Christine Ann Volkert, Mt. Pleasant, retired, Proposer: Barbara Garland

For Transfer-

From Lewisburg Lodge: William McDaniel

Meeting date June 23, 2026

Initiation-

Bernard Burns, Columbia, retired, Proposed by Guy Odom

Christopher Costa, Columbia, Proposed by Bo Harden

Those listed above voted on favorably at June 9 meeting

Attention Elks Members:



Dues for the 2026–2027 lodge year are due by **April 1st**.

You may submit your payment in the following ways:

- Scan the QR code located on the menu, or tables at lodge
- Mail your payment
- Pay at the lodge using debit/credit card or cash



Your server can assist with debit/credit payments by adding the amount to your tab or processing an individual receipt.

New membership cards will be available for pickup beginning the week of April 1st. Cards can also be mailed upon request.

For questions, please contact the lodge at: **columbiaelks686@gmail.com**

Thank you for your prompt attention and continued support of our lodge!

District Deputy Message:

Our District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler (DDGER) Dewayne Skeen, is available to any member who needs advice or assistance which may be better addressed by the DD rather than ER of Officers.

Dewayne Skeen can be reached at:
(931) 447-5823

1258 Charlie Davis Rd.
Prospect, TN 38477
Dewayne.skeen@gmail.com



Sign up at Elks.org for
your Elk benefits



<https://www.elks.org/>

Gearing up for Chicago!

July 5 - July 8, 2026

Elks National Convention

Join the 2026 Elks National Convention in Chicago, as Elks celebrate one of the most powerful moments in the Order's history-
the 100th Anniversary of the Elks National Memorial.

Experience a week filled with inspiring events, Grand Lodge sessions, exhibits, and unforgettable celebrations honoring a century of service, unity, and Elkdom pride. Check [Elks Home](#) for the latest news and updates on the convention as it gets closer.

For more information on Chicago, visit [Elks National Convention | Choose Chicago](#)

Schedule:

- A ticketed ceremony celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Elks National Memorial Building will be held on the morning of July 4.
- Click here for information on the ceremony and ticket lottery. [Elks National Memorial 100th Anniversary Celebration](#)
- Opening Ceremony is July 5th @ 4 p.m. at the McCormick Place - West Building.
- General Sessions will be held July 6 - 8, 2026 starting at 8 a.m. at the McCormick Place - West Building.
- The full seminar schedule will be available May 1, 2026.

Registration:

- Pre-Registration opens online on April 1, 2026.
- Onsite Registration and credential pick-up will open Friday July 3rd at noon in the McCormick Place - West Building.
- Friday evening hours will be extended for those picking up tickets for the 100th anniversary celebration.



Click link to join
our Facebook page-
immediate updates are
posted on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ElksLodge686>

Back Room Rentals-
Please be considerate
of persons that paid
for a private
party/event..

>>> June 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	Lodge Open 2 Elk-tivites-Bingo	Lodge Open 3	Lodge Open 4	Lodge Open 5	Lodge Open 6 Smoke Off Lewis Co Lodge Smoke Off Jackson Bike Ride Columbia Stop 1pm
7	8	Lodge Open 9 Entertainment Committee Mtg 6pm Regular Meeting w/ balloting 7pm	Lodge Open 10	Lodge Open 11 Flag Day Ceremony 6pm	Lodge Open 12	Lodge Open 13 Music on the Deck Michael Dean
14	15	Lodge Open 16 Elk-tivites-Bingo	Lodge Open 17	Lodge Open 18	Lodge Open 19	Lodge Open 20 Music on the Deck
21	22	Lodge Open 23 Regular Meeting w/ initiation 7pm	Lodge Open 24	Lodge Open 25 Meeting Room rental private party Building Mtg	Lodge Open 26	Lodge Open 27 Music on the Deck Don McKinnon
28	29	Lodge Open 30	Lodge Open 1	Lodge Open 2	Lodge Open 3	Lodge Open 4

Fridays! Are you wearing your red? R.E.D Friday is a tradition where people wear red to show their support for military troops deployed every Friday. While R.E.D is an acronym that stands for "Remember Everyone Deployed", the red color represents the sacrifice of those who serve. RED Friday is a reminder of the importance of keeping our troops in our thoughts as a way to help increase their morale.

After dues are paid cards are available at
the lodge for pick up

2026-2027 Dues
Regular Members \$ 135.50
Life Members \$ 78.50
Spouse card \$ 5.00



Please update your mailing
address with lodge for new
Dues Notices to be mailed.
Payments may be mailed to
Columbia Elks #686
1208 WKRM Lane
Columbia, TN 38401