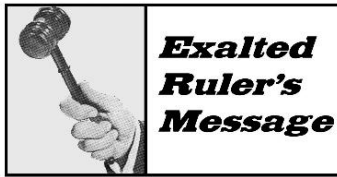




MAY 2026

Athens Elks Lodge # 1927
P O Box 51
Athens, TN 37371-0051
423-744-8121
bpoe1927@comcast.net



Exalted Ruler's Message

Hello Athens Elks,

April was an exciting month for leadership, with the state convention in Gatlinburg, followed by the District Deputy meeting shortly thereafter. I highly recommend attendance at our state or national conventions if you can swing it. It's a great opportunity to meet a wide variety of fellow Elks while spending time in other cities. This year was the last Gatlinburg-hosted state convention for a while as the next three years will take place in Nashville. The mid-year state convention will be in Jackson, Tennessee, October 8-10, and this year's national convention takes place in Chicago over Independence Day weekend; it's my guess that fireworks over the Chicago River will be a sight to see. If you would like information on any conventions, just ask any board member – I would love to see you attend!

I want to recognize and thank all the volunteers and staff for everything done behind the scenes. From hosting and feeding over 80 people for Youth Government Day to cleaning up after a pipe burst and flooded the social club, those who make time to benefit our causes and facility embody the best qualities of being an Elk. If you have an interest in joining a committee or helping at an event, please let any board or staff member know.

Your humble Exalted Ruler,
Wayne Wilson

Scholarship Committee News

Thank you to all the volunteers who participated in our Student Government Day – it was a great success! Because of your support and involvement, the Lodge was proud to award two \$1,000 scholarships – one to a deserving young man and one to a deserving young woman.

We truly appreciate everyone who helped make this event possible!



We initiated 5 new members at the April 16 meeting. Welcome Tammy Metzger, Tom Oja, Sharon Aiyanna, Linda Silva and Audreanna Tilley.



Chris Anthon and Ms. Melasawn Knight - Director of Schools for McMinn County Schools on Student Govt Day.





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What it Means to Be an Elk...

Being a member of the **Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks** means more to me than simply holding a card or wearing the emblem—it represents a commitment to live by shared values and to serve something larger than myself, a sense of Pride that my Great Grandfather, Grandfather, and Father all were members of.

To me, Elks membership is about **service with purpose**. It's showing up for my community quietly and consistently—supporting youth, honoring veterans, caring for neighbors in need, and strengthening the place I call home. The work isn't done for recognition, but because it's right.

It also means **brotherhood and belonging**. Being an Elk places me among people who respect tradition, loyalty, and mutual support. We may come from different paths, but we stand together on common ground—ready to help one another and to act when our community needs us. That sense of fellowship is rare, and I don't take it lightly.

Being an Elk reminds me to live by **charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity**—not just in lodge meetings, but in daily life. It challenges me to be fair when it's difficult, generous when it's inconvenient, and steadfast when it would be easier to walk away.

Finally, it means **carrying the torch forward**. I'm part of something with history and meaning, entrusted to leave it stronger than I found it. My membership isn't passive; it's a responsibility to participate, to lead when called upon, and to represent the Order with integrity.

In short, being a member of the B.P.O.E. means choosing to stand for community, character, and commitment—every day, in ways both seen and unseen.

I look forward to meeting you in the days, weeks, months, years to come. I challenge you to take an active role in our lodge and help it grow. We have a number of committees in need of volunteers, ideas and assistance, and can really benefit from more contributors and look forward to your continued support.

Chris Anthon, BPOE Lodge #1927 Secretary



May Birthdays

01	Rick	Smith
02	John	Contreras
02	Debbie	Currington
02	Mary	Vinson-Dyer
05	Mike	Standridge
05	Randy	Wallace
06	Devin	Greene
06	Jordan	Hall
07	Jason	Adkins
09	Jessica	Klaaren
11	Chad	McKeehan
11	Tony	Robinson
13	Kimberly	Cornell
17	Josh	Boggess
20	Ronda	Moore
21	Elaine	Schrader
22	Dee	Baker
22	Rusty	Davis
23	Russell	Bennett
23	Bianca	Williams
29	James	Williams



Voting on the following candidate on **May 7:**

Ellwood "Chip" Rhoades (transfer from Lancaster, PA)

Initiations will be held on **May 21** (if there are any new candidates voted in).

You can now pay your dues online at:

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

For those who have paid, cards for 2026-2027 year are available from your server. If you want your card mailed to you, send an e-mail to the Secretary at **bpoe1927@comcast.net**

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LODGE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY
in order to give our staff time to spend with
their families.

REMINDER: Please make sure you sign your guests into
the social club. Guests are allowed 6 visits per fiscal year.

Meetings First and Third Thursdays of each month except
January and July. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m.

CONNECT WITH US FOR LODGE NEWS AND EVENTS

www.facebook.com/groups/elks1927members/



Our District Deputy
Grand Exalted Ruler
(DDGER), George Gray,
is available to any
member who has issues
or needs advice or
assistance which may
be better addressed by
him rather than our ER
or officers. Should you
ever need to contact
George, he can be
reached at 423-715-
0752.

2026-2027 Lodge Officers

Exalted Ruler
Leading Knight
Loyal Knight
Lecturing Knight
Secretary
Treasurer
Esquire
Tiler
Chaplain
Inner Guard

Wayne Wilson
Jesse Contreras
Sandy Walker
Mary Vinson-Dyer
Chris Anthon
Kristen Schrader
Frank Wilson
Drew Haren
John Dyer
Angie Wilson

Trustees:

Tony Robinson
Tony Johnson
Tony Hester