

The Elk's Antler

January 2026



2025-2026

Officers

Exalted Ruler: Rodney Gobbell (P.E.R.)

Leading Knight: Byron White

Loyal Knight: Andrea Gobbell

Lecturing Knight: Betty Kelley

Secretary: Andrea "Andie" Rhodes

Treasurer: Stephen McKee-Interim

5 Year Trustee: Wayne Romesburg

4 Year Trustee: W.L. Culberson (P.E.R.)

3 Year Trustee: Pattie Hollinsworth

2 Year Trustee: Gary Greksa (P.E.R.)

1 Year Trustee: Terry Potts

Esquire: Josh Sykes

Inner Guard: Dana Bass

Tiler: Barbara Garland

Chaplin: Karson Gobbell

Message from the Exalted Ruler:

Greeting, my fellow Elks.

As the year comes to a close and families gather to celebrate Christmas, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many projects, events, and charitable donations our members have contributed to throughout the year. Our lodge is one of—if not *the*—largest civic groups in the area and a true pillar of community support.

Time and again, our members have given selflessly—physically, mentally, and financially—to touch the lives of local youth in our schools, adults in need, our veterans in gratitude for their service, and even our own members. The heart behind these efforts is something words can hardly describe, and I say this with deep pride as your ER.

As a fellow member, I want you to know how truly thankful I am for your generosity, your hard-working hands, and the spiritual support you show each and every day. As we close out the year with the celebration of Christmas, please keep your loved ones close in thought and prayer, and may we all look forward to a prosperous and blessed year ahead.

With your continued commitment to serving others, I am confident that **2026 will be another outstanding year** for this lodge.

Exalted Ruler,
Rodney Gobbell

Tip of the Antler – Terry Rippy

Mr. Terry Rippy stands as a shining example of what it truly means to be an Elk. His dedication to our lodge isn't just seen—it's felt. Through his steady commitment, quiet generosity, and unwavering support, he strengthens the fellowship that holds us together. Terry gives without seeking recognition, serves without hesitation, and uplifts others simply by being who he is. His contributions speak volumes. We are grateful for his spirit, his heart, and the countless ways he enriches our lodge and our community.



WREATHS
— across —
AMERICA



On December 13th, many members of Columbia Lodge #686, joined by our Sisterhood Lodges across the Middle Tennessee area, came together in a powerful show of unity and remembrance by funding **1,100 of the 5,400 wreaths** placed to honor our fallen heroes at Madison National Cemetery. While we are proud of what was accomplished in 2025, the mission continues.

Madison National Cemetery is the final resting place for more than **34,000 servicemen and women**, and every one of them deserves a wreath. We now have **12 months** to raise the remaining funds needed to cover the entire cemetery December 2026. Let us stand proud of what we have done—and even more determined in what we can still achieve together.

Elks Care. Elks Remember.

Sign up at [Elks.org](https://www.elks.org) for your Elk benefits



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

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 or Officers.

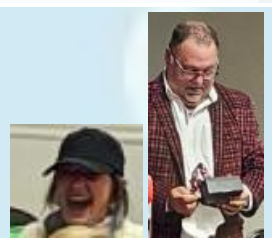
Dewayne Skeen can be reached at:
(931) 447-5823

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



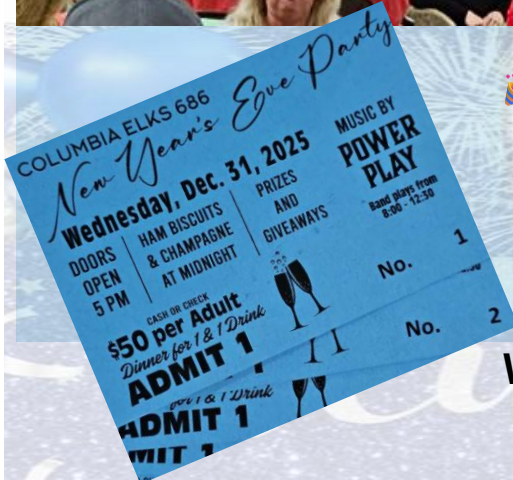
Mrs. Claus (Tammy) and her Elves (Members) made the Christmas Spirit VERY Bright

In the early morning hours of December 14th, many members came together to shop for our **Children's Christmas** event. On a crisp, cold morning, members arrived with warm hearts, ready to shop for others. Despite the frigid weather, they pressed on—selflessly focused on bringing joy to children in need. Words cannot fully express our gratitude for the generous donations and the dedication of our members. The lodge was filled with “Santa’s elves,” busy at work and making BIG smiles happen. A **BIG shout-out to Tammy Greksa** for her incredible time, leadership, and unwavering dedication to this project. Please remember, the **Christmas Notebook** is available all year long for donations—because your generosity keeps Santa’s Workshop elves smiling year-round.



MEMBERS & STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY

OH WHAT FUN! The Dirty Santa Member Christmas Party was a wonderful success—full of laughter and joy despite the bitter cold weather outside. Members & Staff gathered in the true spirit of the season, enjoying great camaraderie, fellowship, and heartfelt cheer together. Not everyone has family or a place to go during the holidays, but our lodge proudly ensures that no member stands alone. Through fellowship and friendship, we come together to share the true Spirit of Christmas.



New Year's Eve Party!

Wednesday, December 31st
Doors Open at 5:00 PM

Single Ticket – \$50
While they last- get them NOW
Admits one guest

Includes 1 dinner and 1 drink

Members join a night of fun with prizes, giveaways, and a festive New Year's Eve champagne toast served with ham biscuits!

Ring in the New Year with great food, Elk Fellowship, and unforgettable memories!



Membership Notices

TRANSFER Elected - Kevin Anthony Rosa- Transfer from Santa Maria, CA

Initiation Jan 27th for:

Lisa Paul – Practice Manager- The Art of Dentistry, Proposed by James Prince

John Logan Parks Supply Chain Specialist MRMC – Proposed by Andie Rhodes

Buford Moss – Retired Fire Dept proposed by Seth Moss

Jan. 13th Balloting:

Austin Beatty Driver for Ferrell Gas Spouse Keri-Columbia Proposed by Bettye Krueger

To Be Read Jan. 13th

Justin Richrdson Owns Richardson Lawn & Landscape LLC Spouse Alison-Columbia Proposed by Tim Napier

Jim Leonard (Honorable-USMC) Sales with Cybereason Spouse Andrea-Columbia Proposed by Tim Napier

Kimberly Farris Customer Service Taco Bell Spouse David Abernathy Columbia TN Proposed by Betty Clay

Reinstatements Elected - Raymond Turner – Retired, Proposed by John Merritt

Reinstatement Elected - Eddie Ables-Retired Auctioneer, Proposed by W.L.Culberson



Click link to
join our
Facebook
page

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

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

January 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	Lodge Closed 1	Lodge Open 2	Lodge Open 3
			New Year's Eve Celebration	New Year's Day	On FRIDAYS ★ We Wear ★ RED	
4	5	Lodge Open 6	Lodge Open 7	Lodge Open 8	Lodge Open 9	Lodge Open 10
		Elk-tivites-Bingo			On FRIDAYS ★ We Wear ★ RED	
11	12	Lodge Open 13	Lodge Open 14	Lodge Open 15	Lodge Open 16	Lodge Open 17
		Regular Meeting 7pm			Back Room - Decorate	Back Room-Reserved
18	19	Lodge Open 20	Lodge Open 21	Lodge Open 22	Lodge Open 23	Lodge Open 24
	M L King Day	Elk-tivites-Bingo			On FRIDAYS ★ We Wear ★ RED	Back Room - Reserved CJ Bar
25	26	Lodge Open 27	Lodge Open 28	Lodge Open 29	Lodge Open 30	Lodge Open 31
		Regular Meeting 7pm			On FRIDAYS ★ We Wear ★ RED	

Dues for the 2025-2026 Year:
Regular Members \$ 137.50
Lifetime Members \$ 80.50
Spouse Cards \$ 5.00
Once paid cards are available at
lodge for pick up



*Dues maybe mailed to
Columbia Elks #686
1208 WCRM Lane
Columbia, TN 38401*

Any member who wishes to have something included in the newsletter, please send an email with
details (photos welcomed) to email: columbiaelks686@gmail.com