

Hilltop Hospitality Newsletter

October 2025



Lodge #2277

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Westminster, MD 21157
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Chartered in 1963

A Message from the Exalted Ruler - Brendan Hopkins

My Fellow Elks,

This newsletter marks six months since I began my term as your Exalted Ruler. Over that time, I have remained dedicated to my motto: "Honoring the Past and Shaping the Future." Together, we have embraced positive changes that have strengthened our lodge, enhanced the quality of life for our members, and restored a vibrant spirit to our home. Once again, our lodge is a place where members want to gather, celebrate, and share in fellowship.

Change can sometimes feel daunting, but it is essential for growth. I want to hear your voices, your thoughts, your ideas, and even your concerns. Your feedback is vital to the continued success of our lodge.

I am proud to share that Westminster Lodge continues to thrive and shine across the state, particularly within the Western District. At our most recent district session, I learned that our lodge has initiated twice as many new members this year as any other lodge in our district. This is a powerful testament to the strength of our membership and the hard work of those who are committed to keeping our lodge moving forward.

Our events have also been a source of pride and joy. They have been well attended and filled with the kind of fellowship that defines us as Elks. I especially enjoyed our recent Hard-Shell Crab Dinner, though I left feeling five pounds heavier! The event drew members near and far, including current and former Elk State Vice Presidents from Hagerstown Lodge #378. Their feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and I am confident they will return to Westminster. My sincere thanks go to our Activities Committee for their creativity, effort, and dedication, it does not go unnoticed.

If you have not yet attended a lodge event this year, I encourage you to join us at one of our upcoming gatherings. Whether it's the Seafood Festival, Flight Night, Elks Giving, or Lodge Trivia, there is something for everyone. Details are always available on our lodge website. Take full advantage of your membership and share in the fellowship that makes us strong.

I am also pleased to welcome two new members of our team: Lisa Weaver, our new Events Manager, and Jeff "Chef Jeff" Keeney, our Restaurant Manager. Both bring energy, experience, and vision to their roles. Lisa will be instrumental in promoting Talmadge Hall as the true hidden gem it is, while expanding our outreach through her marketing expertise. She is also working to bring catering options back for private events. Chef Jeff has already begun reimagining our dining experience, preparing a seasonal menu and weekly specials that promise to delight our members. I invite you to join us as we launch our new fall menu this October and rediscover the dining charm our lodge was once known for.

As we continue to grow the Elks name from our corner of Carroll County, I encourage each of you to be a part of this exciting journey. Volunteer your time on a committee, train to become an officer, or lend a hand during a dinner service. Just a few hours a week can make a lasting impact.

Thank you for your trust and support. Together, we are not only honoring our proud past but shaping an even brighter future. I look forward to seeing you at the lodge soon.

Exalted Ruler Brendan Hopkins 240-393-1054	Secretary Junior Davidson PER, PDDGER, PSP 443-375-7168	Board of Trustees Tom Anderson 1 Year
Esteemed Leading Knight Christy Landsman 443-375-7129	Tiler James Wyman	Andrew Dean 2 Year
Esteemed Loyal Knight Peggy Markovic 443-604-5521	Inner Guard MaryEllen Miller 410-596-2677	Sharon Hinton PER 3 Year
Esteemed Lecturing Knight Paul Tribles 443-414-3867	Chaplain Joe Lewis 717-634-0140	Keith Reed 4 Year
Esquire Patrick Jacobs	Presiding Justice Hon. Haven N. Shoemaker, Jr., Esq.	Tom Hayes 5 Year
Treasurer James Jaderborg 715-645-0400		West District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Gordon Hinton PER

WESTMINSTER ELKS LODGE #2277

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House Update

Fellow Elks,

It has been a whirlwind these last few months interviewing, hiring and onboarding our new team members, but boy are things heading the direction intended! Not only have we added our Restaurant Manager, Chef Jeff, and our Events Manager, Lisa Weaver, but we have also now expanded our bar team and are happy to welcome John Lyons and Jackie Singer (yes, Jackie from the Legion) to our team!

As ER Hopkins noted, we have a lot coming up from the house. For those of you that have been up at the lodge in the last few weeks, you have already seen some wonderful changes as we seek to elevate the dining experience at the lodge, and this is just the beginning! If you missed the Seafood Cioppino or the Filet Sandwich or the Roasted Corn Bacon Bisque, don't worry, there is more where that came from! We will be rolling out a new menu in early October with many old favorites, some new additions, and a ton of specials! This will be paired with an expanded activities schedule from both our activities committee and from the work Lisa will be doing. I am hopeful that you will come up to the lodge at least once a week to see what's happening. Great food with some engaging activities, all at a reasonable price and surrounded by Elks. The lodge is the place to be! Perhaps the greatest indicator of the direction we are heading is that we are starting to receive advanced reservations for dinner. That is a wonderful compliment to the great work the Board, the House Committee and the Staff are doing each day!

A few things to keep an eye out for:

- **Sundays we will be open for Football starting September 28, 2025. We will be open every Sunday from 12:30-5. The food options will be announced each week in the email blast.**
- **Look for some expanded hours coming soon! We are working to ensure that the lodge is open more often for you to enjoy! There might be some Saturday college football events showing up too!**
- **There is a buzz growing about a Sunday Brunch that will be affordable and delicious. Soon you'll be able to grab some brunch and then head to the social quarters for Football Sundays. More to come!**
- **Catering is returning to the lodge! Jeff and Lisa are working on a catering menu that will be exceptional. If you have hall rental needs, or know someone who does, we will have the beautiful hall or back yard available, along with bar and food catering service. What easier way to host an event? Tell your friends, but be sure to reserve the hall or back yard for your event soon, activity is already picking up with new bookings each week. Don't miss your spot! You can reach Lisa at lisaw@elks2277.org**

I realize that this is quite a different direction from the last several years, and I welcome any feedback that you may have. Not everything we do will be a home run, so please share your feedback. You can reach the team at house@elks2277.org at any time. The House Committee is here to serve our members, and welcome your input. And don't forget, this lodge is YOUR lodge, not just a restaurant, so if you want to dive in and offer your time and talents, know that we always welcome your help and ideas. Together, we can do great things.

One last thing, if you are not receiving the email blast please email house@elks2277.org and we'll gladly add you. If you are not on the text blast list, just visit <https://elks2277.perswaid.com/addme> and sign up!

I hope to see each of you at least once a week at the lodge!

Andrew Dean, House Committee Chair



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Secretary's Notes

Notice: Make sure your contact information is up to date. This includes your address, phone number and email. If you have a change, please contact the Secretary, by email (Elks2277@gmail.com) or call the Lodge (410-848-2277).

Dues Notice have been mailed for the next Lodge year April 1, 2025, thru March 31, 2026.

Regular Members' dues are \$105.25, and Life Members' dues are \$63.25. If you have not received your notice, you can mail a check to the Lodge or pay in person at the Lounge.

New Life Membership requirements were approved by the membership in attendance at the Grand Lodge Convention in Atlanta. They are 30 years total as an Elk, no age limit, and a member in good standing. You need to fill out a Life member application and return it to the Secretary to become a life member at which time your request will be balloted upon at a regular Lodge Meeting.

Reminder: There is a \$10 fee for all key cards that have been lost or broken.

 Membership/Lapsation Report Westminster, MD Lodge 2277	
Beginning Membership Total 4/1/2025:	511
Increases	
Initiated:	31
Affiliated:	1
Reinstated:	0
Subtotal:	32
Decreases	
Dropped:	0
Transferred Out:	1
Absolute Dinit:	0
Deaths:	2
Expelled:	0
Subtotal:	3
Calculated Membership Total:	540
CLMS Active Members:	540
Average Age:	64.74
Gain/Loss:	29
Delinquency	
Six Months:	0
One Year:	50
Over One Year:	0
Total:	50
Lapsation Rate:	9.78%
Applications on Hand	
Waiting to read at next lodge meeting:	0
In the hands of the investigating committee:	1
Ready for balloting:	0
Ready for Orientation:	0
Ready for Initiation:	0
Ready for Affiliation:	0
Ready for Reinstatement:	0
Other:	0
Total:	1
Life Members	
Life Members:	88
Honorary Life Members:	4
Total:	92



District Deputy Gordon Hinton (PER)

**Saturday, October 25 - District Deputy
pre-visit and audit 12PM.**

**Monday, October 27 - District Deputy
official visit 6PM.**



Westminster Elks Lodge #2277 & American Red Cross Blood Drive

 **Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025**
 **Time: 10:00 AM – 03:00 PM**
 **Location: 538 Gorsuch Rd, Westminster, MD 21157**
 **Room: Talmadge Hall**
 **Blood Program Leader: Christy Landsman**

The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community. Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2 to 3 seconds and most of us will need blood in our lifetime.

Thank you for supporting the American Red Cross blood program!

Registration:

Download the Red Cross Blood Donor App on the [App Store](#), [Google Play](#) or text BLOODAPP to 90999. Schedule appointments, view your blood type and results of your mini-physical, and track your donations.



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REMINDER



Elks Inner Circle

The more support you show the lodge the greater your reward!

Tier 1 - Bronze

- Spend \$200 for 200 points
- \$10 reward

Tier 2 - Silver

- Spend \$400 for 400 points
- \$20 reward

Tier 3 - Gold

- Spend \$1000 for 1000 points
- \$75 reward

Tier 4 - Platinum

- Spend \$2500 for 2500 points
- \$200 reward



Tier 5 - Diamond



- Spend \$5000 for 5000 points
- \$500 reward

START EARNING TODAY!

Loyalty Program Summary:

- Continue to accrue points to reach the highest tier!
- Redeeming a reward resets your points to 0.
- Points expire 1 year from the purchase date.
- Rewards can only be redeemed when you close your tab toward food and drink and cannot be redeemed for cash.



Elks
National
Foundation, Inc.

Did you know?

The Elks National Foundation (ENF), is the charitable arm of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Its mission is to build stronger communities by funding scholarships, youth programs, veterans' services, and local community projects.

ENF is supported by donations from Elks members and invested for long term impact, and provides millions of dollars each year in scholarships, grants to local lodges, and support for state charitable initiatives.

	Active Members	Participating Members	Fidelity Club Members	% of Members participating
Westminster #2277	511	61	17	11.97%

Help be the difference today and support the Elks National Foundation! Donations can be a one time donation or a monthly reoccurring gift, made online at elks.org/enf All gifts are tax deductible.

YOU'RE INVITED TO

FLIGHT NIGHT

NOVEMBER 8, 2025

3:30 PM

WESTMINSTER ELKS LODGE 2277

SIP, SAVOR AND SOCIALIZE
WITH CURATED TASTINGS OF
WINE, BEER AND BOURBON.

Tickets are required for this event and are available to purchase through November 1.

\$10 per ticket.

Your ticket includes:

- Entrance to the event
- Raffle ticket
- Personal charcuterie board



Tastings are sold separately; full size drinks of the tastings will also be available.

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TUESDAY

07:00 PM



Book Club

The Book Club for Troublesome Women

by Marie Bostwick

October 1st

Where the Rivers Merge

by Mary Alice Monroe

November 5th

Have you seen Luis Valez?

by Catherine Ryan Hyde

December 3rd



Lodge and Board Meetings

Board of Directors meetings are 2nd and 4th Wednesdays - 6:30 PM

Lodge meetings are 4th Monday - 7 PM

Lodge and Board meetings are open to all Elk members.

Sportsman's



Date: February 21, 2026

Location: Hampstead Fire Hall

Doors Open: 5 PM

Bingo Starts: 6 PM

Ticket Price: \$50

Food: Available for purchase at the event

Note: Must be 21 or over to purchase tickets

Tickets: Contact Sharon Hinton
(Scrapgurl13@yahoo.com) or stop by the lodge



2025-2026 Contest Topic:
"Drugs are a grave mistake"

Ways to participate:

VIDEO

The contest is open to high school age students

- Participants: May be an individual or group
- Length: 2 to 5 minutes in length

ESSAY

Contest open to 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students. Participants must write their essay themselves, but they may get help from teachers, parents, or friends in the form of ideas.

- Length: No longer than 250 words.
- Paper size: 8 1/2 x 11 inch.
- Text: Typed, computer generated text, hand written or hand printed.

POSTER

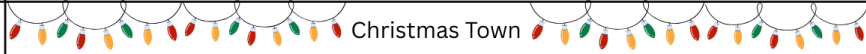
Contest is open to 3rd, 4th, & 5th grade students.

- Ideally, posters should be submitted on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper.

Deadline for contest is April 1, 2026. All entries must be submitted to Westminster Lodge #2277 before deadline

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Date	Time	Details
10/18	5PM & 7PM	 Fest & Trivia 
11/8	3:30PM	 Beer, Wine, Bourbon Flight Night (Tickets Required) 
11/14	5PM	 Elkgiving Turkey Dinner
11/20	7PM	 Trivia
12/7	3PM	 Memorial Service
12/13	TBD	 Christmas Town
12/20	10:30AM	 Breakfast with Santa 
12/31	5PM	 New Years Eve 
2/21	5PM	Sportsman's 

Due to variables such as volunteers and interest, events and dates may be subject to change. We will be sure to send out updates if this should occur.



Hardshell Crab Dinner



Thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed an evening of delicious Maryland crabs with us! We're especially grateful to our hardworking volunteers who made it all possible. A special shout-out to our guests from Hagerstown - Elks State Vice President Chris and Debbie Potter and past State Vice President Mike and Renae Collins - your support means the world to us!





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

October 1:

- Brooks Kyker
- John Gambatese
- John Bruns
- Hugh Phillips
- Dahl Miller
- Denny Snyder
- Jonathan Trentzsch
- Doris Stoner

October 3:

- John Francies III
- Thomas Hess Jr.
- Linda Mangiapane
- Mike Thomas
- Stacy Singer
- Timothy Snyder

October 4:

- Corey Smith
- Thomas Whitcomb
- Lonnie Pryor

October 5:

- Michael David Knight
- Robert Wyckoff
- Margaret Markovic

October 6:

- John Bloom Jr.
- Lisa Flannery
- Gary Harrison

October 7:

- Donald Buckworth
- Bruce Coyle
- Brock Shade
- Jacqueline Singe

October 9:

- Tanner Bair
- James Billingslea

October 10:

- Larry Harris
- John McCullom

October 11:

- Theodore Border
- David Reed
- Chad Reese

October 12:

- John Gambatese
- John Bruns

October 13:

- Linda Mangiapane
- Stacy Singer

October 14:

- Lonnie Pryor

October 15:

- Margaret Markovic

October 16:

- Robert Houck
- Robert Hoy Jr.
- Sharyn Simms

October 17:

- John McCuen
- Charles Miller

October 18:

- Brendan Hopkins

October 19:

- Charles Pond
- William Norton

October 20:

- Shirley Hampt
- Robert Thompson

October 21:

- John Mahoney
- Billy Withrow

October 22:

- John Bruns
- Denny Snyder
- Doris Stoner

October 23:

- John Arbaugh
- Timothy Snyder

October 24:

- John Royer
- Joseph Serio

October 25:

- Scott Steinbach

October 27:

- Marian Davidson

October 28:

- Nikki Lemmerman
- Frank Mecholsky
- James Wyman

October 29:

- Eugene Curfman

October 31:

- Michael Gathagan
- Laird Oskin

WESTMINSTER ELKS LODGE #2277



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  Book Club 6PM	2	3	4  Queen of Hearts 7:30PM
5	6	7  7PM	8  Board Meeting 6:30PM	9	10	11  Queen of Hearts 7:30PM
12	13	14  7PM	15	16	17	18  5PM  Trivia 7PM  Queen of Hearts 7:30PM
19	20	21  7PM	22  Board Meeting 6:30PM	23	24	25  Queen of Hearts 7:30PM
26	27  Lodge Meeting 7PM	28  7PM	29	30	31	



Important Newsletter Update

We're excited to announce that our newsletter is now going to be available online as part of our commitment to sustainability. By going digital, we're reducing paper waste and minimizing our environmental footprint. This change also allows us to deliver updates faster, and ensure accessibility from anywhere. Thank you for supporting our move to a more eco-friendly and efficient way of staying connected.

Newletters will be emailed and available on the website on a monthly basis starting October 2025.

If you would like to continue to receive a printed copy on a monthly basis, please visit the website elks2277.org and fill out the form or use the QR code below.

